

الجزيرة



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PLO, Soviet Union reiterate call

MOSCOW (R) — A close aide of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Tuesday and both men called for an international conference on Middle East peace, the Soviet news agency TASS said. Farouk Kaddoumi, chief foreign affairs spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), arrived in Moscow on Saturday and ended his visit Tuesday. TASS said Mr. Kaddoumi's talks with Shevardnadze took place in a friendly and businesslike atmosphere. TASS said the two men denounced U.S. attempts to set up a "separate, capitulatory deal" between Israel and the Arabs. An international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, would meet the interests of the people of the region and the world as a whole, it said.

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Awad Nusseibeh leaves Jerusalem electricity company

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Former Jordanian Defence Minister Awad Nusseibeh, who headed the East Jerusalem Electric Company under 18 years of Israeli occupation rule, on Tuesday resigned from the financially strapped firm citing personal reasons. Mr. Nusseibeh, one of the most prominent Palestinians in Jerusalem, consistently opposed Israeli attempts to take over the company started by Jordan in the 1960s.

U.S.: No comment on reported Soviet missile deliveries

WASHINGTON (USA) — The State Department withheld specific comment on Monday over reports that Jordan has taken delivery of Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles. Deputy spokesman Charles Redman pointed out that Jordan announced last year its decision to purchase Soviet equipment, including air defence items, to help meet some of the needs long recognised to be genuine gaps in Jordanian defence capability. "Jordan has made it quite clear that it will, as will all sovereign states, take whatever steps it considers appropriate to enhance its own security," Redman said. "Jordan has regularly demonstrated a clear preference for American equipment. When we are unable to be of assistance, they may be forced to look elsewhere."

Columbia launch delayed for 5th time

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — The launch of "hard-core" shuttle Columbia on its first flight in more than two years was postponed for a fifth time on Tuesday because of bad weather here and at emergency landing sites in Africa and Spain. NASA said another launch would not be attempted before Thursday because of the need to inspect engine compartment insulation which has been subjected to fueling for two straight days.

U.S. agriculture secretary resigns

WASHINGTON (R) — Agriculture Secretary John Block, who has presided over one of the most troubled periods in U.S. agricultural history, resigned on Tuesday. Mr. Block told a news conference he had submitted his resignation to President Reagan after five years at the Agriculture Department which he said had some of the toughest "struggles" for U.S. farmers. Appearing cheerful and good-humoured, he said he wanted to "look to new exciting opportunities in the private sector."

Junejo sees better Indo-Pakistan ties

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said on Tuesday Pakistan's relations with India had greatly improved in the past six months. Mr. Junejo was speaking in Lahore on the eve of the first of several meetings aimed at building trust between the two nations, which have fought three wars since independence in 1947. The official AFP news agency quoted him as saying that a visit to India last month by President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq had contributed to better ties.

Crown Prince calls on superpowers to seek new Mideast approach

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday called on the U.S. and the Soviet Union to seek new ways and explore fresh avenues to push forward the Middle East peace process.

The Crown Prince also said political consultations were continuing between Jordan and Syria over the means to arrive at a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and expressed hope that the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will provide a working formula for a united Arab platform for movement towards an overall peace settlement in the Middle East.

In a keynote address at a two-day seminar organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the American Enterprise Institute, the Crown Prince briefly reviewed developments in the region since the creation of Israel in 1948 and the role of the superpowers and their rivalry in the region.

Citing the shortcomings in the U.S. policy and strategy against what Washington perceives as

"communist encroachment" in the Middle East and the paradoxical situations to which such shortcomings have forced successive U.S. administrations, the Crown Prince called on the U.S. to realise that the Soviet Union "is already in the Middle East and has been there for some time."

"As the other superpower, the USSR feels it too has legitimate interests which it wants to protect in this region," the Crown Prince said. "The Soviets have acquired a position of power and influence (in the Mideast) not only by virtue of their superpower status, but by their skillful manipulation of the dynamics of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Jordan is saddened and appalled by the paralysis which has dominated inter-Arab politics and has been working towards settling inter-Arab differences and revive "a semblance of Arab consensus" for "constructive and positive moves" towards peace in the Middle East, he said. "Our efforts have yielded some excellent results to encourage us to continue our efforts..." he said.

One of the issues of utmost concern to Jordan is the situation of the Arab inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied territories, the Crown Prince said. "The preservation of the Arab identity of the people under occupation and the protection of the status of their territory, pending a settlement, require immediate attention," he said.

(Continued on page 3)

Reagan braced to announce economic action against Libya

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan was expected to launch a new economic offensive against Libya on Tuesday in an effort to rally world condemnation of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and keep him guessing about U.S. military plans.

The action, which was to be unveiled at a news conference at 8 p.m. (OTW) GAT Wednesday, would end a week of speculation over Mr. Reagan's response to an alleged Libyan link to the Dec. 27 airport attacks in Rome and Vienna that left 19 people dead, including five Americans.

The United States has accused Col. Qadhafi of promoting terrorism and sheltering the Abu Nijal guerrilla group blamed for the airport attacks.

Although the administration has been considering military retaliation for the assaults, officials said on Monday that Mr. Reagan decided to impose new economic

sanctions against Libya, but has not ruled out military action.

The president has decided to take further economic sanctions against Libya and he will have an announcement at the news conference, said one administration official, who asked not to be identified.

"He is keeping his military option open," he said. "Sixth Fleet units (in the Mediterranean off North Africa) will be kept in place."

In Tel Aviv, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres strongly attacked Col. Qadhafi again on Tuesday but said there was no need to go to war against Libya.

Speaking in the central town of Nes Ziona, Peres called Col. Qadhafi "a clown, a murderer and a liar" and urged the non-communist world to retaliate for last month's attacks.

"There is no need to declare war against Libya. It would be enough just to impose economic

and legal sanctions (against Libya)," he said.

The Libyan media claimed on Tuesday that Saudi Arabia promised to use all its "material and financial resources" to help Libya repel feared U.S. and Israeli attacks.

The Libyan external relations bureau on Monday summoned Tripoli-based ambassadors to reiterate denials of Libyan involvement in the Rome and Vienna attacks.

In Beirut, a pro-Libyan group calling itself the "Arab Revolutionary Committees in Lebanon" threatened in a published statement on Tuesday to mount "suicide operations in the heart of Washington" if the United States or Israel attack Libya.

In Khartoum, Sudan's prime minister rejected the idea of an anti-terrorist strike against Libya and said it could lead to an unwanted superpower confrontation in the Middle East.

5 Arabs face charges in Rome fire

ROME (AP) — Five Arabs were charged on Tuesday with arson in a fire at the Islamic Cultural Centre that caused heavy damage to the first floor, police said.

The five were inside the centre when the fire broke out on Monday. Police at first believed the five had gathered for prayer, but said on Tuesday that contradictory statements by four who were stopped as they tried to run away and another who was slightly injured led them to believe the fire was set.

Firefighters also determined that the fire had two points of origin, and what appeared to be traces of flammable liquid on some of the rugs, police said.

Investigators believe the building caretaker, unwilling to let the men inside, may have been forced to open the doors to them.

The men charged were identified by police as two Syrians, one Moroccan, one Sudanese and one Egyptian. All were without proper visitors' permits, police said.

The fire destroyed much of the prayer room and the living room, according to police.

Following the fire, the ambassadors of the Islamic conference member countries sent a message to Italian authorities asking for better police protection of their embassies and residences. Italian officials said.

OIC to express support for Libya

FEZ, Morocco (Agencies) — Foreign Ministers of the 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) decided on Tuesday to issue a declaration of support for Libya, which is seeking backing against what it perceives is a U.S.-Israeli threat against its territory.

The United States and Israel have accused Libya of harbouring the Abu Nijal group, said to be responsible for the shooting and grenade attacks Dec. 27 against the Rome and Vienna airports.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali, president of the OIC ministers, said the Libyan issue was one of three items considered during the first plenary session of the week-long conference.

The statement of support was being drafted and was expected to be issued later.

Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdul Salam Tureiki, speaking to reporters outside the meeting hall, repeated Libya's denial that it had anything to do with the airport attacks and said he thought Libya now had the support of the whole international community.

The Libyans won backing over the weekend from the 21-member Arab League during a meeting in Tunis, and U.S. calls for sanctions against Libya have either been rejected or have gone unanswered.

Mr. Tureiki said the threat from the United States had long been there, and that Washington was just using the airport attacks as a pretext.

The three matters covered Tuesday morning included agreement on an agenda of about 90 items, the Libyan issue, and the question of Egypt's seat in the organisation.

Egypt was re-admitted to membership at the last Islamic summit in 1984 at Casablanca. Its presence here was challenged by Syria, Iran and Libya.

The conference re-affirmed Egypt's membership.

Libya is also pressing for moves to counter an Israeli diplomatic offensive in black Africa, diplomats said.

With Syria and Iran, Libya has proposed that OIC members break off diplomatic relations with any country resuming links with Israel.

Sharifuddin Pirzadeh, secretary-general of the OIC, said at the opening session that last month's decision by Ivory Coast to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel was regrettable.

He said some other African states, including members of the OIC, had been mentioned as likely to follow. But one of them, Gabon, had denied it, he said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday addresses a two-day seminar organised by the

Arab Thought Forum and the American Enterprise Institute (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Syria fires missiles at Israeli jets; Rabin issues new threats

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syria was reported to have fired surface-to-air missiles at Israeli warplanes flying over Lebanon on Tuesday but Israel denied the report and continued to send its fighter jets over Lebanese territory.

Israeli leaders also issued threats of tough response to Syria after accusing it of harbouring "terrorists" and encouraging rocket attacks across the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Syrian gunners fired two SA-6 missiles at Israeli warplanes over Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on Tuesday, but missed.

Lebanese military sources reported that the action, which Israeli denied, came amid simmering tension between the two countries over Syria's deployment of Soviet-supplied missile batteries inside Lebanon and along the Syrian border.

Security sources in Beirut reported that Israeli warplanes, which bombed commando bases in east Lebanon 13 times last year, staged mock air raids against bases in the Bekaa on Tuesday.

The Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the low-flying jets released scarier phosphorous balloons that deflected the missiles.

It said one missile exploded over a village in the Bekaa, but caused no casualties.

Sources at Lebanon's military command told the AP the Soviet-supplied SA-6 missiles were launched from the Syrian border point of Jdeidat Yabous.

Israeli jets later made supportive passes over Beirut. The Bekaa and South Lebanon, causing sonic booms as they crashed the sound barrier, the sources said. They spoke on condition they were not named.

Israel's command admitted its planes carried out reconnaissance

patrols over Lebanon, but denied they came under fire.

There was no comment from Damascus, where officials have repeatedly warned the Israelis to keep out of Lebanese airspace.

The developments came as Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres warned of a flare-up between Syria and Israel unless both sides "behave properly."

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin charged Syria with encouraging rocket attacks across the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Rabin said that if the attacks continued the Israeli army would strike back in South Lebanon with 100 times more force.

"We will not tolerate one-sided terrorism. If there is significant interference in the normal life of Israelis on Israeli soil (from rocket attacks), there will be no normal life for the people in South Lebanon," he said.

Israel jails 8 Gaza citizens for 14 to 28 years

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli military court has sentenced eight Palestinians to prison terms ranging from 14 to 28 years for resistance activities in the occupied Gaza Strip, military officials said Tuesday.

The court on Monday sentenced Said Afina and Youssef Aby Armarna to terms of 28 and 22 years for allegedly stabbing an Israeli when he stopped for petrol in Gaza.

Another resident, Nahid Kada, received a 25-year prison sentence for allegedly attempting to shoot an Israeli truck driver.

Five other Palestinians were sentenced to terms of at least 14 years imprisonment for alleged attacks that included hijacking a bus.

The head of the student council at Birzeit University, a nationalistic Palestinian institution in the occupied West Bank, was arrested overnight by Israeli security forces, Palestinian sources said.

Jamal Salkhan's council was elected last month on a platform supporting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

In another development, Arab citizens stoned Israeli vehicles near Beit Sahour near Bethlehem injuring two of their occupants and smashing a bus' windows.

Reports said a fire bomb was hurled on another vehicle on the Bethlehem-Hebron road but an Israeli spokesman said that no-one was injured and no damages occurred.

Another Israeli vehicle passing near Al Ibrahim mosque in Hebron was stoned by Arab citizens but Israel Radio, which reported the incident, said no-one was injured. But, it said, Israeli authorities imposed a curfew around the mosque and started a search campaign that resulted in the detention of a number of Arab citizens.

According to the Palestine News Agency, Wafa, the Israeli authorities are planning to enlarge a Jewish settlement near Jerusalem by further confiscating Arab lands.

Convicted Egyptian policeman found hanged in prison hospital

CAIRO (Agencies) — A policeman convicted of killing seven Israelis was found hanged Tuesday in his prison hospital room, the state-owned Middle East News Agency reported.

MENA quoted a prison statement as saying Sgt. Suleiman Khater, 24, who was sentenced Dec. 18 to life imprisonment at hard labour, was found hanging from his window about 10 a.m.

A portion of his bedding was wrapped around his neck, the statement said.

The statement said authorities were investigating but had not determined how Khater died. Some Egyptian opposition groups had hailed Khater as a hero and a martyr for the killings.

One of Khater's lawyers, Emad Al Sobky, told the Associated Press he had not been notified officially of his client's death but said Khater's defence team holds Egyptian authorities responsible.

"We presented a medical certificate signed by an internationally known doctor saying

that he was mentally ill and in urgent need of treatment," Mr. Sobky said.

In the statement distributed by MENA, prison authorities said guards "found Suleiman Khater hanging by the neck from a window in his room at the prison hospital."

Doctors tried unsuccessfully to revive him, the statement added.

It said Khater had been confined in an undisclosed prison hospital undergoing treatment for a parasitic disease common in Egypt, Mr. Sobky said, however, that as far as he knew Khater was not physically ill.

Khater's lawyers based their defence on a claim that their client was mentally disturbed when he opened fire on an Israeli group in the Sinai Peninsula last Oct. 5.

A three-judge court-martial ruled that Khater "was in a stable state of mind and was aware of what he was doing and had done."

He was convicted of unprompted murder for killing the seven Israelis.

Khater had been given 60 days to appeal for reduction of his life sentence.

Another of his lawyers, Abdul Halim Ramadan, told Reuters: "I see no reason for Khater to kill himself."

He said he had visited him in jail on Sunday with a group of relatives. "Khater was in high spirits. A man with such spirits could not possibly kill himself."

Mr. Ramadan said he would attend the investigation into cause of death.

The statement reported by MENA said Khater was under treatment at the hospital for schistosomiasis.

There were reports in some Arab newspapers just after Khater was convicted that he had suffered a gash in the head in an incident in his jail cell. The reports — vigorously denied by Egypt's state-owned media — said he was hurt when an Israeli photographer allowed to interview him hit Khater with his camera.

Defence arguments stun court trying Gandhi murder case

NEW DELHI (R) — The chief defence lawyer in the Indira Gandhi murder trial on Tuesday stunned the court by charging that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was capable of killing his mother.

"A son like that can kill also, and matricide is not unknown for political or other purposes," Pran Nath Lekhi said. "Was there any love lost (between Mr. Gandhi and his mother)?"

He compared the murder with the killing of Julius Caesar and added: "We know it was an inside job... somebody wanted to show her dead body to the people and get votes."

Lekhi, lawyer for principal defendant Satwant Singh, did not give details to back his charges against Rajiv Gandhi.

The court was stunned and silent as Lekhi made his final arguments in the cold little courtroom in New Delhi's top-security Tihar jail where the trial is in its eighth month.

Lekhi also said Mr. Gandhi tried to flee the country when his mother suffered a humiliating election defeat in 1977 and was kept

back because she paid him one million rupees (\$80,000). "He held her to ransom," Lekhi charged.

He said Mr. Gandhi also wanted to flee the country when India fought a war with Pakistan in 1971.

He said he would have asked the court to summon the service records of Mr. Gandhi, a former pilot with the domestic Indian Airlines, to prove his point.

"Mrs. Gandhi was fighting a battle with the enemies of the country," Lekhi said. "When the leave of every Indian Airlines pilot was cancelled in 1971, he (Rajiv Gandhi) applied for leave."

At one point during Lekhi's speech, a grim-faced Judge Mahesh Chandra said: "This is not relevant. Shall we come back to the case?"

In a reference to Judge Chandra's rejection last month of a list of defence witnesses that included Mr. Gandhi, his wife Sonia and President Zail Singh, Lekhi said he was now giving evidence that the judge had denied him.

He charged that two of Mrs. Gandhi's closest aides, Mahkan Lal Fotedar and Rajinder Kumar Dhawan, were her "shadows" and were also involved in the murder.

"They were the manipulators of the event. This was not a murder — it was an event which was manipulated," Lekhi said.

He told the judge he had "irrefutable documentary evidence" to back each of his charges and added: "Probably one day (you) may realise that this was a mistrial."

Lekhi's sensational charges came a day after he alleged that the "real assassins" escaped in a car after Mrs. Gandhi was gunned down outside her residence.

He said that nearly 100 bullets were fired during the attack, not 30 as recorded, and that there were more weapons than the two used by the alleged assassins, Satwant Singh and Beant Singh.

Judge Chandra turned down Lekhi's request for police radio records that he said would back his claim about the actual time of the shooting.

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U.S. pledges long term aid to Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — A top U.S. official pledged during a two-day visit here that the United States would continue its aid to Sudan.

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker left for Paris Tuesday on his way home after talks in Cairo and Khartoum.

"The United States is continuing and will continue its assistance to Sudan and there is a U.S. aid programme for Sudan on the way for several years to come," the Sudan News Agency SUNA quoted him as saying after meeting interim military ruler Gen. Abdul Rahman Swarredh Monday.

Prime Minister Al Gazouli Dafallah, meanwhile, warned the United States indirectly not to interfere in Libya.

Speaking to local journalists at the Crocker talks were underway.

Mr. Dafaallah said Sudan "rejects any aggression against neighbouring Libya and its territorial integrity."

Referring to the possibility of U.S. moves against Libya after Washington accused it of backing guerrilla attacks in Europe, the prime minister said Sudan would ally Arab support for Tripoli if it felt this was necessary.

"We believe that the interference of any superpower in the region's affairs will lead to the interference of other superpowers... Libya is a neighbouring Arab country and Sudan rejects any threat against its independence or its territorial integrity," he said.

Sudan was a strong opponent of

Libya under U.S. ally Jaafar Numeiri, ousted as president by army leaders last April. But Khartoum has since established ties with Tripoli, to the annoyance of the United States and neighbouring Egypt.

Sudan is the second biggest African recipient of U.S. assistance after Egypt, Mr. Crocker said Monday. Washington was watching with deep interest Sudan's return to democracy with elections next April.

Sudan received about \$400 million in U.S. economic and famine relief aid last year as well as \$40 million in military aid.

SUNA did not say whether the latest U.S.-Libya row was raised in Mr. Crocker's talks with officials here. The prime minister made his comments during a regular weekly meeting with editors of local media.

Kuwait sets up elite force to combat hijacks

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait has set up what is believed to be the first special force in the Gulf to counter air piracy, Al Seyassah newspaper said Tuesday.

Handpicked Kuwaiti recruits, chosen for their courage, physical fitness and mental alertness, were being trained by specialised instructors to storm aircraft, it said. It quoted an informed source as saying such a unit was imperative under prevailing conditions in the area, and was part of wide-ranging measures under way to upgrade security.

Kuwait has enforced a big clampdown since an assassination attempt last May against the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and two cafe bombings in July.

which killed 15 people.

The director of airport security, Nasser Al Othman, said recently barbed wire fencing and watchtowers would be erected soon around the international airport, and electronic surveillance systems would be installed.

Aviation sources say the national airline has routinely carried security personnel on its flights since four Arabs hijacked a Kuwait Airways Airbus to Tehran in December 1984. Two American passengers were killed.

The Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Itihad quoted senior Kuwaiti officials as saying the training involved all types of planes, especially Ju-86 jets, Airbus and Boeing 727 and 707, the types serving in the Kuwait airlines.

Austrian involved in arms deal with Tehran

TORONTO (AP) — An Austrian man whose extradition is sought by the United States told American undercover agents that he met Iranian officials to negotiate a multimillion-dollar arms deal, a document filed in district court shows.

Heinz Golitschek, 44, was arrested Oct. 30 near Pearson International Airport. U.S. officials are seeking his extradition on a charge of conspiring to defraud the U.S. government by submitting false documents.

A price of \$61 million was quoted for 10 U.S. Cobra military helicopters during discussions with Golitschek, said Walter Kiniry, a special agent in the U.S. Customs Service, in an affidavit filed Monday at the extradition hearing.

Kiniry alleged that, during telephone discussions, Golitschek also requested information on the availability and price of 15,000 Tow missiles.

Suspect charged with 4 arms offences in Cyprus

LARNACA (AP) — A 26-year-old Arab was charged with four weapons offences Tuesday, three weeks after police maintained he'd tried to board a passenger jet with guns and grenades hidden in two huge wine bottles.

Larnaca district court Judge Takis Eliades refused to grant bail for the suspect, Sami Anis Maken. Nasr, after a police prosecutor argued Nasr's "escape is certain" if he were freed.

Police had maintained Nasr was either trying to hijack the Swissair jet that he was about to board on Dec. 17 when he was arrested, or was intent on some other violent crime.

Judge Eliades set next Monday as the trial date for Nasr, who is of Palestinian origin from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Nasr was charged with two counts of possession of illegal weapons in connection with two wine bottles containing two pistols, six grenades and 71 bullets. Two similar charges were filed in connection with two other bottles, containing six grenades, 40 bullets and two pistol silencers, allegedly

found later at the home of a Nasr relative.

Police said at the time of the arrest that Nasr was trying to board a Swissair jetliner with two wicker-covered wine bottles containing weapons. They said the bottoms had been removed, then replaced, and the bottles filled with wine and ink to hide the weapons wrapped in foil inside.

Police said during their investigation that Nasr had given them the names of four other foreigners who were being sought for questioning.

The day after Nasr was seized at Larnaca airport, police arrested another person, Yezid Gaspar Sayiagh, who carries a U.S. passport. But Sayiagh was later released and said to have no connection with the case.

At Tuesday's hearing, police inspector Pampou Kouloudis, acting as prosecutor, presented written testimony from 22 witnesses. Judge Eliades retired to examine the testimony, then issued the charges against Nasr.

Egyptian newspaper dismisses Mubarak-Peres summit report

CAIRO (AP) — A state-owned newspaper Tuesday dismissed reports of an imminent summit between President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres because a border dispute between the two countries remains unresolved.

Israel Radio reported Monday that Mr. Mubarak had suggested that Peres visit Cairo at the end of the month to wind up year-long negotiations on Tabu, a strip of land on the Gulf of Aqaba claimed by both countries.

Peres told reporters that the two countries "are very close to agreement" on resolving the Tabu issue, which stands in the way of improved relations between the two former adversaries.

The Cairo daily Al Akhbar, however, said it had learned "that there are no preparations at the moment" for a summit and dismissed reports of an imminent meeting as "pure guessing."

"The Egyptian-Israeli disagreement surrounding the Tabu problem has not been solved," the newspaper said. It noted that Mr. Mubarak has said in the past he had no objection to meeting Peres "if the pending problems between the two countries, mainly the Tabu question," were solved.

Egypt has insisted that the status of Tabu, currently in Israeli hands, be resolved by international arbitration.

Peres, leader of the Labour Party, has accepted the idea, but Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, chief of the Likud Bloc, has demanded that non-binding conciliation be tried first.

Peres said in an interview published Tuesday that he would be "very happy" to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. "I will be very happy to meet the Egyptian president because I very much value improving relations with this country," Peres told the mass circulation Yediot Ahronot daily newspaper.

His remarks were an apparent response to what Israeli officials said Sunday was Mr. Mubarak's suggestion that they hold a summit in Cairo at the end of January.

It would be the first such meeting since 1981, when then-president Anwar Sadat met then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin at a Sinai resort.

Israeli government officials said Mr. Mubarak's proposal was linked to demands that Israel agree to arbitration to resolve a four-year border dispute on Tabu. In exchange, Mr. Mubarak has promised to return an Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

The ambassador was recalled in September 1982 to protest Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Shamir has spearheaded opposition to arbitration over Tabu, fearing it may mean relinquishing the one square-kilometre (250-acre) area to Egypt. He has instead favoured directly negotiating the dispute.

But Peres has pressured him to agree to a formula to resolve the Tabu issue which has delayed progress in bilateral ties and in prospects for Mideast peace talks.

Peres said that tensions along Israel's northern border following commando rocket attacks last week from Lebanon and a simmering missile crisis with Syria underscored the need to warm up chilly ties with Egypt.

Soviet-made Katyusha rockets landed for the first time in three years in the Kiryat Shimon border town on Jan. 2, damaging five automobiles and breaking windows in apartment buildings.

"When there are shocks in the north, it is incumbent upon us to maintain stability in the south," Peres said.

Peres told U.S. Senator Paul Simon, Democrat, Illinois, on Monday that the durability of Israel's 1979 peace treaty with Egypt was a test case for accords with other Arab neighbours.

"We must turn the peace into something permanent and successful. If the peace with Egypt doesn't last there won't be peace in the Middle East," Peres said.

More Soviet Jews emigrate in 1985

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, at a record low of 904 in 1984, increased again last year with 1,140 arrivals registered at the Vienna transit centre, the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) announced Tuesday.

The number still represented only a fraction of the peak total of 51,330 Jews who were allowed to leave the Soviet Union in 1979 before the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan increased East-West tensions.

Since the 1971 start of the resettlement programme, 252,898 Soviet Jews arrived in Vienna. Of these, according to ICM, 61.1 per cent opted for new homes in Israel while the rest went to other Western countries.

Between 1971 and 1978, more than three fourths of all emigrants from the Soviet Union settled in Israel. In 1981, that share dropped to 19 per cent. Of the 1985 arrivals, 31.8 per cent said they want to settle in the Jewish state, ICM said.

Western press reports pre-

dicting that the Soviet Union was preparing to allow emigration return to its 1979 level have been denied by the official Soviet News Agency TASS as "totally groundless fabrications."

ICM Spokesman Nuno Amos De Campos said the agency, which is involved in the resettlement of the Jewish emigrants, has no official word from any side on such plans which according to the press reports were the subject of secret discussions between the Soviet Union, France and Israel.

Peres to make 1st visit to West Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres will visit West Berlin this month, becoming the first Israeli prime minister to travel to the former Nazi capital, Berlin's leading journalists' association announced Tuesday.

In Bonn, an Israeli diplomatic source confirmed that Peres would pay an official visit to West Germany at the end of January, while a secretary at the Israeli embassy said "that's the fact" when asked whether the Israeli leader would come to West Berlin.

Both spoke to the Associated Press on condition that they not be identified by name, saying official announcements on the visit were expected later this month in Israel and Bonn.

In West Berlin, Brigitte Siebecke, an official with the city's Press Association said Peres had accepted the group's invitation to address the 'Association's' journalists on Jan. 29. She said it will be the first trip by an Israeli prime minister to Berlin. Berlin was the capital of the Nazi regime, and is now divided into West Berlin and Communist East Berlin.

Ms. Siebecke said Peres was scheduled to arrive in West Germany on Jan. 27 and that he also intends to include a trip to the former Nazi concentration camp site at Bergen-Belsen. She added

he would visit Bonn on Jan. 28.

Peres' visit to West Germany would be only the second by an Israeli prime minister.

Israel to sell drones to U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli company is to sell 24 drone pilotless mini-planes to the U.S. navy in a \$26 million deal, a spokesman for the company, Maziat, said Tuesday. The remote-controlled drones, used for intelligence gathering, fly for up to nine hours at a time and can take video pictures at night as well as in daylight, the spokesman said.

Jenco family baffled by reward offer

JOLIET, Illinois (AP) — The sister of the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, one of six Americans missing in Lebanon, has said she is grateful to the person offering "writing skills and \$5,000" for her brother's freedom.

But "we haven't the faintest

idea who it is," said Mae Mihelich, Jenco's sister, in a telephone interview Monday.

The offer was made in a typewritten letter, dated May 9 and received Saturday by the An Nahar newspaper in Beirut, which published translated excerpts

Sunday. The one-page letter was in an envelope mailed from Canada.

The letter, which bore no signature or identification, was addressed: "To those who are holding Father Lawrence Martin Jenco, kidnapped Jan. 8, 1985."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 7-3111-14	23:05 Evening Show Continued 23:57 News Headlines 24:00 Close Down
MAIN CHANNEL	
16:00 Koran	
16:20 Religious programmes	
16:25 Children's programmes	
16:30 Medical Programme	
16:35 Programme Review	
16:40 News in Arabic	
16:45 Arabic Series	
16:50 Programme Review	
16:55 Wrestling	
17:00 News in Arabic	
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00 French Programme	
19:00 News in French	
19:15 Le theatre de Bouvard	
19:30 News in Hebrew	
19:35 Three's Company	
20:00 Documentary: Connection	
21:00 News in English	
22:00 Falcon Crest	
RADIO JORDAN 855 Hz. AM & 90 MHz. FM & ports on 95.0 Hz. SW Tel. 7-3111-14	
07:30 Light Music	
07:35 Newsweek	
08:00 Morning Show	
08:05 News Summary	
08:10 Morning Show Continued	
08:15 Pop Session	
08:20 News Summary	
08:25 Pop Session Contd.	
08:30 News Summary	
08:35 Pop Session	
08:40 News Bulletin	
08:45 Instruments	
08:50 The Young Sound	
08:55 Concert Hour	
09:00 News Summary	
09:05 Old Favorites	
09:10 Jordan Weekly	
09:15 Pop Session	
09:20 News Summary	
09:25 Over a Cup of Tea	
09:30 Arab Music	
09:35 News Desk	
09:40 Date with a Star	
09:45 Evening Show	
09:50 News Summary	
09:55 Evening Show Contd.	
21:05 News Summary	
21:10 Evening Show Continued	
21:15 News Summary	
21:20 Evening Show Continued	
21:25 News Summary	
21:30 Evening Show Continued	
21:35 News Summary	
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23:50 Evening Show Continued	
23:55 News Summary	
24:00 Evening Show Continued	

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS	LECTURE	OPENING CEREMONY	CULTURAL CENTRES	SERVICE CLUBS	CHURCHES	MUSEUMS	PRAYER TIMES
A painting exhibition by Khalid Khatib at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Jan. 9).	An exhibition of contemporary Egyptian art at the Jordan National Art Gallery (until Jan. 10).	"La Sessane" at 6:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	The opening of Abdul Hamid Shuman Centre — a public library, data bank and a cultural and scientific centre under the patronage of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.	Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267 American Centre - Tel. 643771 French Cultural Centre - Tel. 641520 British Council - Tel. 6361478 Goethe Institute - Tel. 637009 Soviet Cultural Centre - Tel. 642033 Spanish Cultural Centre - Tel. 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre - Tel. 639777 Hayat Arts Centre - Tel. 655195 Theater Youth City - Tel. 6571816 Y.W.C.A. - Tel. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. - Tel. 642251 American Municipal Library - Tel. 637111 University of Jordan Library - Tel. 843555	Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Meetings every Tuesday and Thursday at the Holiday Inn, 8:15 p.m. Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) - Tel. 624590 St. George's Church (Greek Orthodox) - Tel. 624590 De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) - Tel. 661757 Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) - Tel. 623541 Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) - Tel. 678906 Armenian Catholic Church - Tel. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church - Tel. 775261	Fellows Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also costumes from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum. Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery. Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures.	06:13 Fajr 06:18 Sunrise 06:23 Sunrise 06:28 Sunrise 06:33 Sunrise 06:38 Sunrise 06:43 Sunrise 06:48 Sunrise 06:53 Sunrise 06:58 Sunrise 07:03 Sunrise 07:08 Sunrise 07:13 Sunrise 07:18 Sunrise 07:23 Sunrise 07:28 Sunrise 07:33 Sunrise 07:38 Sunrise 07:43 Sunrise 07:48 Sunrise 07:53 Sunrise 07:58 Sunrise 08:03 Sunrise 08:08 Sunrise 08:13 Sunrise 08:18 Sunrise 08:23 Sunrise 08:28 Sunrise 08:33 Sunrise 08:38 Sunrise 08:43 Sunrise 08:48 Sunrise 08:53 Sunrise 08:58 Sunrise 09:03 Sunrise 09:08 Sunrise 09:13 Sunrise 09:18 Sunrise 09:23 Sunrise 09:28 Sunrise 09:33 Sunrise 09:38 Sunrise 09:43 Sunrise 09:48 Sunrise 09:53 Sunrise 09:58 Sunrise 10:03 Sunrise 10:08 Sunrise 10:13 Sunrise 10:18 Sunrise 10:23 Sunrise 10:28 Sunrise 10:33 Sunrise 10:38 Sunrise 10:43 Sunrise 10:48 Sunrise 10:53 Sunrise 10:58 Sunrise 11:03 Sunrise 11:08 Sunrise 11:13 Sunrise 11:18 Sunrise 11:23 Sunrise 11:28 Sunrise 11:33 Sunrise 11:38 Sunrise 11:43 Sunrise 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NEWS IN BRIEF

Health Minister arrives in Muscat

MUSCAT (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh arrived here on Tuesday on an official visit during which he is due to participate in meetings by the executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health. During his stay in Muscat, Dr. Hamzeh will hold talks with Omani senior officials on means to enhance bilateral relations in health-related fields.

Karak issues labour report

KARAK (Petra) — Karak Governorate Labour Department issued 3,206 work permits during 1985 and allocated 1556 permits for non-Jordanians, according to annual report issued on Tuesday. The report said 160 orders for jobs by Jordanians were met out of 326 orders submitted to the department.

Military governor endorses sentences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Military Governor General on Tuesday endorsed a decision by the military court sentencing Mohammed Jawad Saleh for an eight-year term of imprisonment with hard labour and a JD 3,000 fine for importing hashish. The verdict passed by a military court included another sentence against Kamel Abdul Rahman for five years imprisonment with hard labour and a JD 1,000 fine for smoking hashish.

Minister of Justice meets CAMJ chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Justice Riyadh Shaka'a conferred on Tuesday with Mr. Mohammed Al Shaddadi, secretary general of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice (CAMJ), who is currently visiting Amman. The talks covered cooperation between the Ministry of Justice and the CAMJ and proper means to enhance it. The two men also reviewed the agenda for a forthcoming session of the CAMJ, in addition to discussing recommendations and decisions taken during the council's last meeting in Riyadh.

Four new scout camps planned

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Youth has decided to set up four permanent scout camps in a number of governorates in addition to the existing camp in Ajloun. Minister of Youth Hassan Al Sharara said that the purpose of these camps is to support the youth movement in the Kingdom and offer youths and scouts suitable ground for their activities. In these camps various youth organisations will be able to hold various cultural and sports activities and competitions under the supervision of an administrative staff housed at buildings on the sites, the minister said. The camps will be built in Maan, Balqa, Karak and Tafleeh districts.

Phosphates valued at \$160m shipped via Aqaba in 1985

AQABA (J.T.) — Jordan exported \$160 million worth of phosphates via Aqaba to 25 countries last year, particularly to India and Romania, according to Mr. Adel Al-Shara, director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) here. He said that a total of 4,609,311 tonnes of Jordanian phosphates were exported in 1985.

The phosphates arrive in Aqaba by rail or road from the Hasa mines in southern Jordan before they are shipped on board ships to different countries, Mr. Shara said. He said that a total of 349,914 tonnes of phosphates were sent to the Jordan Fertiliser Industries Company in Aqaba for processing.

Crown Prince urges superpowers to reassess approach

(Continued from page 1)

More significantly, Israel has both a sizeable nuclear capability and is known to deploy nuclear missiles.

"The possibilities of regional conflict, miscalculations leading to a U.S.-Soviet confrontation, or terrorist operations triggering off a nuclear war make the Arab-Israeli dispute probably the most serious flash-point in the world today."

The Crown Prince called on "all other nations, especially the two superpowers, to look for new ways, explore fresh avenues and experiment with novel procedures to push the peace process forward; we cannot afford to fail. This may require that certain positions and long-standing attitudes, as well as established policies have to be re-examined and reassessed in the light of current developments."

On the prospects for peace in the region, he said: "Today, we have to recognise that the Camp David accords have run their full course, and the results in terms of an overall settlement to the Palestinian question is far from satisfactory. The convocation of an international conference is an essential measure, not only because it would give international legitimacy to the peace process, but because it is the only umbrella under which direct negotiations can take place for a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute as called for by U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338."

In addition to the mobilisation of the U.N. machinery, the superpowers could assume a more activist approach to regional conflicts in the Middle East. Mere statements of foreign policy objectives are no substitute to coherent and comprehensive diplomacy. The aim should not be the imposition of a settlement, but the manipulation of the leverage of influence to induce constructive results."

The U.S. in particular is called upon to resist domestic pressures that may adversely influence the direction of its foreign policy and adopt a more activist approach to peace-making. Measures are required from the American administration that can create momentum to propel the states of the Middle East, the machinery of foreign policy making, and the American public, into moves that can sustain and nourish recent developments."

"It has become abundantly clear that bilateral approaches to the problems of the Middle East are not satisfactory. They must be replaced by definite and practical schemes to ease tension and resolve conflict. We are fully conscious of the fact that the line of seismic politics running from the Black Sea in the West to the Caspian Sea to the east has dropped southward to extend from the Gulf in the east to westward to the East Mediterranean-Red Sea basin. This conflict-ridden area — Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran — to which may be added the famine-ravaged countries of Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Chad, has become the soft underbelly of superpower confrontation, threatened by potent social economic as well as political factors that may bring about the complete collapse of the present state structures." (Full text of the Crown Prince's speech will appear in tomorrow's issue of the Jordan Times).



Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid Al Haj Hassan (centre) meets Tuesday with members of a visiting Arab Labour Organisation (ALO).

The delegation is in Amman in preparation for a seminar in March sponsored by the ALO on means to end the Iran-Iraq war (Petra photo)

Jordan to host ALO seminar on means of ending Iran-Iraq war

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan regards Iran's aggression on Iraq as directed against the whole Arab nation and therefore Jordan will do all that it can to contribute to the success of a seminar that will be held in Amman in March to discuss means for ending the conflict and establishing peace in the Gulf region, Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid Al Haj Hassan said here Tuesday.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation from the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), the minister said that Jordan appreciates the ALO's decision to hold the seminar in Amman and hopes that efforts will be made towards ending Arab-Islamic bloodshed.

The ALO delegation includes Mr. Abdul Hussein Mtsallam, the organisation's secretary general,

and Suleiman Ali Ahmad, ALO's administrative director. Both ALO officials praised Jordan's firm stand vis-a-vis national Arab issues and discussed with the minister preparations for holding the seminar in Amman on March 25.

Mr. Mtsallam expressed happiness at Jordan's decision to host the international seminar, to be held under the slogan of supporting Iraq in its endeavours for ending the war and establishing peace.

Mr. Mtsallam also conveyed to Mr. Haj Hassan appreciation from the Iraqi Minister of Labour and the ALO Director General for Jordan's pan-Arab stands and its total support for the Iraqi people.

ALO chose Amman as a venue for this international seminar because the country enjoys high international credibility and free flow of information and for the facilities Jordan offers to the press to convey the seminar's resolutions and results to world public opinion, Mr. Mtsallam said.

He also voiced the ALO's appreciation for His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government's quick response to a request to hold the seminar in Jordan.

Representatives of regional and international organisations and union federations (including those in the Non-Aligned Movement), the London-based Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross and leading international personalities will take part in the seminar.

The last such seminar was held in Baghdad in March of last year.

Ministry of Education issues working paper on the eradication of illiteracy

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty-eight per cent of the Jordanian population under 15 years of age are illiterate, but this ratio is being reduced at the rate of one per cent annually, according to a working paper prepared by the Ministry of Education and released on Tuesday, the eve of Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy.

The paper noted that Jordan has acquired an advanced position among developing nations in adopting programmes and enacting legislation designed to provide basic education to all citizens.

Jordan will observe the day Wednesday as part of long-held policy of spreading awareness among the public about the dan-

gers of illiteracy and its adverse effects on social, political and economic activity in the country, according to the working paper.

The paper also presented a number of proposals to deal with illiteracy in the coming years, and reviewed the ministry's efforts in providing education to adults and carrying out literacy programmes since the achievement of independence, and also the developing of schools into primary, preparatory and secondary stages over the years.

The paper, prepared by a group of educators led by Dr. Izzat Jaradat, Director of General Education, outlined plans for offering

educational opportunities to those who missed education when they were young and the type of education offered to adults at centres set up for the purpose in all regions of the country. The paper also presented a national strategy for eradicating illiteracy in the country. The core of this strategy, the paper said, is to make primary and preparatory education compulsory for all people from the age of 10 to 50 especially for those how have had no chance to join schools. The plan is to be implemented in 15 years, and includes a two-year preparatory stage, a 10-year executive stage and a phase-out period of three years, the paper said.

Arab Belgium and United Insurance to merge

AMMAN (R) — Four local insurance firms have decided on two mergers under new government legislation which aims at strengthening Jordan's crowded insurance market, insurance sources said Tuesday.

They said Arab Belgium Insurance and United Insurance companies, with a combined paid-up capital of JD 450,000, decided on merger following meetings of their respective shareholders a few days ago.

The National Insurance and Al Ahlia (Jordan) Insurance companies, whose paid-up capitals total JD 390,000, agreed to merge nearly two weeks ago.

Both firms' paid-up capitals on completion of the mergers are expected to exceed a JD 600,000 minimum capital requirement.

About 30 insurance firms are operating in Jordan. Officials expect the number to be reduced by half under proposed new rules this year which will fix minimum annual underwritings for insurance companies. Poor business led two firms to merge last year.

Committee for mosque restoration meets

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat recently presided over a meeting of the committee in charge of development of the mosques and tombs of the companions of Prophet Mohammad and outlined the efforts so far made to develop these mosques.

Dr. Khayyat said the meeting was in response to a Royal message which called for the formation of a special committee for the restoration and maintenance of these mosques. The message said that such mosques should reflect the Islamic civilisation and conquests.

Lawzi: Arab solidarity a key to safeguarding Arab national interests

CAIRO (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi said here Tuesday that Jordan was keen on building Arab solidarity and ending all inter-Arab differences so that Arab national interests can be safeguarded and protected.

Mr. Lawzi was addressing a meeting of the speaker and members of the Arab Affairs Committee at Al Shoura Council of Egypt in the presence of Dr. Subhi Abdul Hakim, the council's speaker. Following his speech, a general discussion took place on Arab issues and Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in all fields. Members of a Jordanian delegation accompanying Mr. Lawzi took part in the discussion.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Lawzi and his delegation visited the Egyptian National Museum.

Mr. Lawzi also held talks with Egyptian Minister of Transport

and Communications Dr. Sulaiman Mitwalli, who expressed satisfaction with Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in transport-related affairs.

The Egyptian minister referred to the Jordanian-Egyptian land-sea route between Aqaba and Nweiba and voiced satisfaction with the project which will offer service to both countries.

Dr. Mitwalli said that work is underway for building a new road linking Suez with Nweiba in Sinai to shorten the present road which is more than 120 kilometres long. This project is expected to be finished by the end of April, he said.

Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hammami was present at the meeting.

Earlier Mr. Lawzi conferred with Dr. Yusef Wali, secretary general of the National Democratic Party and deputy prime minister.

Mr. Lawzi, who was accompanied by the Jordanian parliamentary delegation, was briefed on the party's programmes and its dealings with opposition parties in Egypt. Mr. Lawzi also met with Dr. Rifaa Mahjoub, speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly, who hosted a banquet in honour of the Jordanian delegation. Mr. Lawzi has already met with President Mubarak, to whom he delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein, and also held talks with Prime Minister Ali Lutfi and other senior government officials.

New directive regulates tourist and travel agencies under 1966 law

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian tourist and travel agencies will not be issued licences to practise unless they conform to rules and regulations provided for in a law issued in 1966, according to instructions issued Tuesday by Minister of Information and Tourism Mohammad Al Khatib.

The instructions stipulate that the Director of Tourism should be convinced that the applicant for a tourist or travel office licence will be capable of undertaking essential functions required from him in the field of travel and tourism. Licences will not be renewed for a

tourist office unless it brought in tourists who stayed in Jordan a total of 2,000 nights, and licences will not be issued to more than one branch unless the owner serves as an agent for an airline company as well, the instructions ordered.

The new directive also said travel offices cannot organise group tours abroad but can only sell regular trips organised by tourist offices. All tourist offices in Jordan must also submit a JD 20,000 bank guarantee to pay for any damage that might ensue or violations of the terms provided for in the tour programme.

The minister's directive banned all travel offices from selling tickets for land transport and confined their operations only to air and sea travels, but these instructions also noted that the Tourism Authority is authorised to offer incentives to tourist offices which organise regional, and international tourist trips to Jordan.

Other conditions stipulate that owners of tourist or travel offices should own at least a JD 25,000 capital and they should provide documents and certificates proving that they have ample experience in tourist or travel operations.

Prime minister to open new Abdul Hamid Shoman centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai will patronise the opening of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Public Library and Information Bank and its affiliated cultural centre in Shmeisni on Wednesday.

The library and the centre will begin offering services to the public on Jan. 11, according to Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman, director general of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation (AHSF) which set up the cultural centre.

He said that the foundation was established in 1978 in memory and honour of Abdul Hamid Shoman, founder of the Arab Bank who offered many services to his Arab countrymen and made great endeavours in banking and financial activities in the Arab World.

The foundation, he said, seeks to promote cultural and scientific research in the Arab World and offers awards to noted scholars and scientists from the Arab World for their achievements.

Dr. Abdul Rahman said the library will be open to all citizens, who can take out subscriptions and borrow books for a refundable JD 5 fee, which serves as a guarantee. Subscribers will be able to borrow up to three books at a time for a period of two weeks and, like all other libraries, reference books and periodicals cannot be borrowed by any subscriber. The library will be open 12 hours per day beginning Jan. 11.

Khayyat issues plea for end to Israeli attacks on holy places

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat issued an appeal on Tuesday to world nations and international organisations to take immediate action to end Israeli attempts at obliterating Islamic and other holy places in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement "said that the Israelis have repeatedly attacked Islamic holy sites with the intent of removing the tombs and burial sites of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad, as well as those of early Muslim scholars and martyrs."

Fast food: A nutritional dead end?

By Najwa Najjar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the past few years, Jordan has witnessed a boom in the fast food business. If eaten in moderation, fast foods are not harmful to the body, but when fast foods are eaten on a daily basis in lieu of a more balanced diet, dieticians worry that the individual may not receive all the essential nutrients needed by the human body.

"Good nutrition means consuming a variety of food in a moderate and balanced manner. Awareness of food is important if certain illnesses are to be prevented, and if the body is to receive its essential requirements," said Miss Khalaf, a clinical dietitian.

Dr. Hamed Takruri, a professor of Diet Therapy at the University of Jordan, agreed that variety is a critical aspect of good nutrition, "a rule of thumb is the more diversified the diet, the more likely it is to be complete and balanced."

Good nutrition can be assured by choosing daily from the four major food groups: meat and fish, dairy products, fruit and vegetables, and grains.

Miss Suad N. Ayoub, who teaches nutrition at the Hotel Training College, explained the chief appeal of fast food: "It is a meal in a few minutes."

Miss Khalaf feels that the worldwide trend towards fast food has also spread to Jordan. The desire to imitate the West exists in Jordan, as it does in most underdeveloped countries. The increasing reliance on meals in the absence of parental guidance plays an important role in the child's dependency on fast foods as well, she said. Both Miss Khalaf and Dr. Takruri believe that lack of knowledge and concern about the nutritional value of foods was another reason. Dr. Takruri has worked as chief dietitian at two hospitals, and from this experience he believes that people have little understanding of which foods are good for them.

"A meal consisting of a hamburger and french fries has a generous amount of protein content, primarily from animal sources, as well as intakes of niacin, thiamin, ascorbic acid, vitamin B12 and vitamin D, all favourable to the RDA (Recommended Daily Allowance)," said Miss Khalaf.

The three dieticians agreed that it was the excess of fat and sodium (salt), and the deficiency in certain vitamins, fibre, and variety which made fast food meals less nutritious than home cooked meals.

Many fast food restaurants import manufactured hamburger patties from the U.S. and Europe. Meat packers usually mix in different parts of the cow, such as glands, liver, and non-beef parts such as intestines, skin, and cartilage, explained Dr. Takruri. Although beef parts are healthy in the sense that they are high in iron, Miss Khalaf said that they are also extremely high in cholesterol, and tend to have a high fat content.

It is well known that potatoes are good for the health, continued Miss Khalaf. Deep-fat frying, however, increases both the fat and cholesterol content of the traditional fast food favourite, the french fry.

Moderate amounts of fat are necessary for replenishing the body's fuel supply. Some fat deposits are also essential for the support and protection of certain vital organs.

However, excessive fat consumption leads to a high storage of adipose tissue, which in turn, may lead to being overweight, said Dr. Takruri and extra body fat is a burden on the heart circulation, joints, and body as a whole.

Carbohydrates are the major energy source for the body. However, ingesting too many carbohydrates has a negative effect if energy expenditure (exercise) is less than energy intake (carbohydrates), said Miss Khalaf. Carbohydrates break down to sugar after digestion, which gives an individual extra calories, but which can also contribute to health problems such as arteriosclerosis and tooth decay, she added. Dr. Takruri explained that sugar is eventually converted to fat.

The bread used in most fast food places is made of refined flour. The body does not utilise refined flour as it does unrefined flour, said Miss Khalaf.

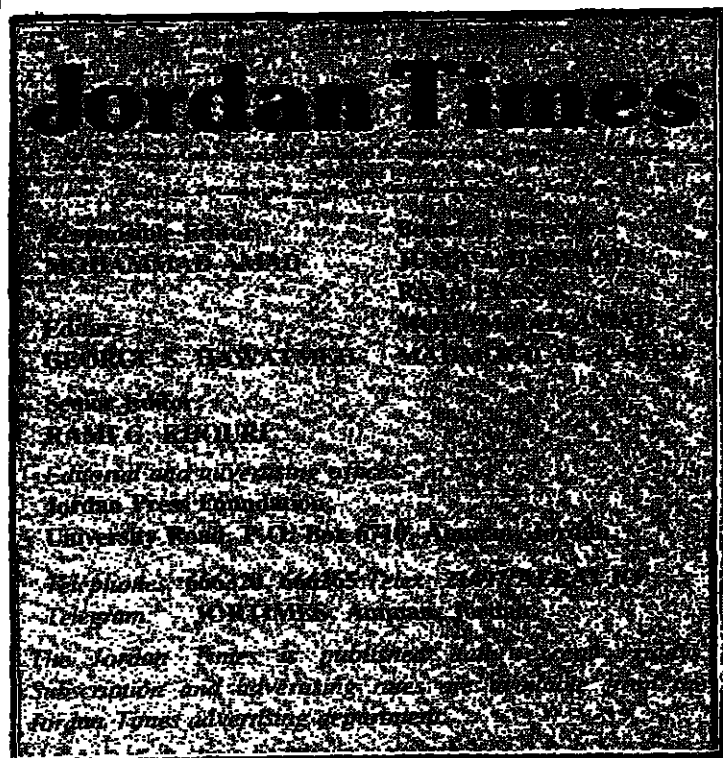
"The unrefined flour provides fibre, which has become increasingly known as one of the major combatants of colonic and intestinal cancer since it aids tremendously in elimination and fat utilisation," said Miss Ayoub.

If fibre is not included in the diet there is a possibility that the individual may develop diverticulosis, a disease in the digestive tract, she told the Jordan Times.

In addition, fast foods are lacking in minerals and vitamins," contended Miss Ayoub. However, one mineral to be found in large quantities in fast food is sodium, said Dr. Takruri, especially in imported meats. Miss Khalaf explained the effect of sodium on the body: "Salt causes water retention which in turn places pressure on the arteries and veins. Sodium intake can be extremely detrimental for those who have hypertension or who are overweight. Excess sodium also precipitates heart failures in patients with heart disease."

Miss Ayoub feels that fast food is most harmful to teenagers. This age group, she said, is the most at risk because their physical development is taking place. A growing child needs more minerals, vitamins, and protein than adults.

In conclusion, Miss Khalaf said that a fast food meal of a hamburger and french fries has a higher percentage of carbohydrates and fat, and a lower percentage of protein than recommended. Daily consumption of hamburgers and french fries with no additional fruits and vegetables will mean a deficiency in minerals, vitamins, fibre, and other nutrients required by the body.



Mistrust continues around Taba enclave

By Bernard Edinger
Reuter

TABA, Sinai Peninsula — Eight years after the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel, those Israelis living closest to Egypt have become deeply mistrustful of their neighbours.

In this tiny, contested enclave at the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba, stern-faced Israeli and Egyptian border guards peer at each other suspiciously over coiled barbed wire.

Bikini-clad foreign tourists loiter unconcerned on nearby sunny beaches but burly Israeli security guards say there has been palpable tension for three months.

In October seven Israeli tourists were shot dead at Ras Burka, along the Sinai coast in Egypt.

"After the Ras Burka shooting they (the Egyptian guards) were in full combat gear for weeks, with helmets and ammunition pouches as if getting ready for an attack," an Israeli guard said.

They only recently reverted to wearing ordinary sand-coloured fatigues, he added.

A Cairo military court in December sentenced Egyptian policeman Soliman Khater to life imprisonment with hard labour for the killings.

The court ruled Khater had been sane when he opened fire but had not known his victims were Israelis. But some anti-Israeli

groups have hailed him as a hero and demanded his release.

Israelis were shocked by the killings and the media said they were the result of an anti-Israeli climate in Egypt aimed at ending the country's isolation in the Arab World.

Egypt was ostracised by most of its fellow Arab states after Sadat signed the 1978 Camp David peace agreement. The accord led to the opening of the Sinai border, the only land frontier Israeli tourists can cross.

In Eilat, Israel's Red Sea port nine kilometres north of here, many of the 20,000 inhabitants felt the shooting was not a surprise but the culmination of a whole series of incidents on the border.

American-born Shirley Kissel said the shooting followed growing harassment of Israelis and others sailing in the area. "I just stopped going anywhere near Egypt since then," she said.

One of her friends told of sailing within sight of Taba, off Egypt's coral island, "when a rubber dingy with Egyptian soldiers motored up and pointed rifles in our faces, shouting at us to get away."

Residents speak of at least three incidents when troops fired at Israeli sailboats, although no one was hurt.

Israeli officials say the Camp David accord allows free navigation but they recognise Egypt is unhappy at boats dropping anchor close to shore during skin-diving

expeditions.

"I don't know whether it is legal or not, but I have banned all sailing or swimming from Taba in the direction of the Egyptian coast," said Eilat mayor Rafi Hochman. "I don't want anyone else killed before things are sorted out."

Cross-border road traffic is allowed but has dropped to nearly nil. One Israeli guard there said he was alert to a possible repeat of the Ras Burka incident.

Taba is the only place in Sinai Israel kept after its 1982 withdrawal from the peninsula. It occupied in the 1967 war.

The enclave is important to Eilat, whose main industry is tourism, because it offers a large international hotel, a holiday village

and beach facilities. Many Eilat work in Taba.

Israel claims Taba, a 700-yard (metre) long beach with a small rocky hinterland, was attributed to Ottoman Palestine when the border with then-British controlled Egypt was drawn in 1906.

Egypt rejects Israeli arguments, pointing out Israel did not seek to remain in the area after it occupied it in the wars of 1948-1949 and 1956. Negotiations have now dragged on for months.

Such issues are of little concern to tourists. Newly arrived from Manchester, English girls Ann Halligan and Geraldine Keogh laid out beach mats and agreed: "We're here for the sun."

Brazil undergoes a difficult transition

The Brazilian government under President Jose Sarney has to smooth the path to full democracy after years of authoritarian military rule. In the run-up to elections difficult decisions risk being postponed, says Andrew Whitley.

RIO DE JANEIRO — Civilian leadership in Brazil after 21 years of soldier presidents has brought few dramatic changes to what is potentially one of the world's great countries.

President Jose Sarney is trying hard in not the easiest of circumstances. Benign and well-meaning he is generally recognised as immeasurably better than his predecessor, General Joao Figueiredo. Yet, outside military circles, which Mr. Sarney served until 18 months ago as leader of the government's Congressional supporters, there is a feeling that he has not proved very effective.

One excuse for the lack of courage the new government has shown is that it is, by prior declaration, a transitional administration. Its raison d'être always was to bridge the gap between the years of arbitrary authoritarianism and the promised era of full participatory democracy.

How long the transition should be — two years, four or six — is much debated, though the consensus appears to have plumped for four. The danger with a four-year term is that it will simply stretch out the pre-election politicking, condemning Brazilians to a saturation bombardment of elections and election campaigns stretching all the way from 1982 to 1988.

In such circumstances the scope for inaction, the postponement of difficult decisions and extravagance with public moneys, for electoral gain, is frighteningly evident.

The other explanation President Sarney gives in his own defence is the illness and death of president-elect Tancredo Neves, in May, before he was able to take office.

In fact, it is a tribute to the underlying strength and resilience of the country that it was able to carry off the transition from the military so smoothly, in the face of a crisis which would have sorely tested a more excitable, less self-assured Latin nation.

Mr. Sarney, as vice-president on the Democratic Alliance coalition state, formally took up the reins tentatively at first, and then with increasing confidence. But what has bedevilled his attempts so far to become master in his own house has been the hotch-pot of ministers chosen personally by Tancredo Neves.

The departure, under protest, of finance minister Francisco Dornelles and his replacement by Dilson Funaro has helped to create greater ideological cohesion in the cabinet. But the full-scale reshuffle Mr. Sarney has been threatening for some time, to create a government in his own mildly liberal likeness, has been put off until February.

Looming ahead, dwarfing all other considerations for the government are the November 1986 congressional and gubernatorial elections. What gives them considerable added significance is that the new Congress to be elected will transform itself into a Constituent Assembly charged with redressing the damage wrought to the national constitution by the military.

In practice, this means redressing the traditional balance between the executive — greatly strengthened under the generals — and the legislature, as well as that between the federal government and the states. Brazil is, after all, a federation in which sharp regional variations exist.

Above all, for most people, the chief task of the Constituent Assembly will be to restore direct elections for the presidency and set a date for the poll to choose Sarney's successor.

Even though the vote is still probably three years away, the front runners, declared and undeclared, are already gathering at the starting gate. They are a familiar crowd of faces: Aureliano Chaves, vice-president to General Figueiredo, Leonel Brizola, the irrepressible Socialist Governor from Rio de Janeiro, Ulysses

Guimaraes, the veteran political leader who heads the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, the PMDB, and Franco Montoro, another long-standing campaigner.

For those concerned about the political maturation of Brazil and the development of a modern democratic system, recent municipal elections returned a mixed message.

On the one hand, old populists from the 1950s like former President Janio Quadros and Mr. Brizola himself won convincing electoral victories in the big cities of the south and south-east. On the other, the small, grassroots Workers' Party, the only party which has emerged from the political basement rather than being artificially created from on high, did surprisingly well in regions where the sway of local "colonels" had previously always ruled.

What these results showed is that the national banking after strong, charismatic leadership still has deep roots. They were also an indictment in many areas of machine politics with all its unsavoury associations.

For the PMDB and its efforts to consolidate itself as the natural party of government after decades in the wilderness, the lesson should be clear. Brazilians do not just want the empty rhetoric of the past, full of sound and fury. They want competent, clean administration.

Corruption, both on the grand scale and at the petty level, is a real problem. And not too much is being done about it. Not one of the well-known culprits from the upper reaches of former governments has yet had charges brought against him.

What is particularly depressing is that Brazilians are among the most well-meaning and tolerant of people — cheerful, willing and long suffering, who put up with abuse and injustice with little complaint.

It is impressive the way the national qualities of adaptability and pragmatism can be harnessed behind an industrial recovery such as is now taking place. From the depths of recession a year and a half ago, first exports and now domestic demand have recovered.

Growth is associated with hope and opportunity for the young Brazilian population. This year gross domestic product should expand by over 7 per cent, the best result in a decade.

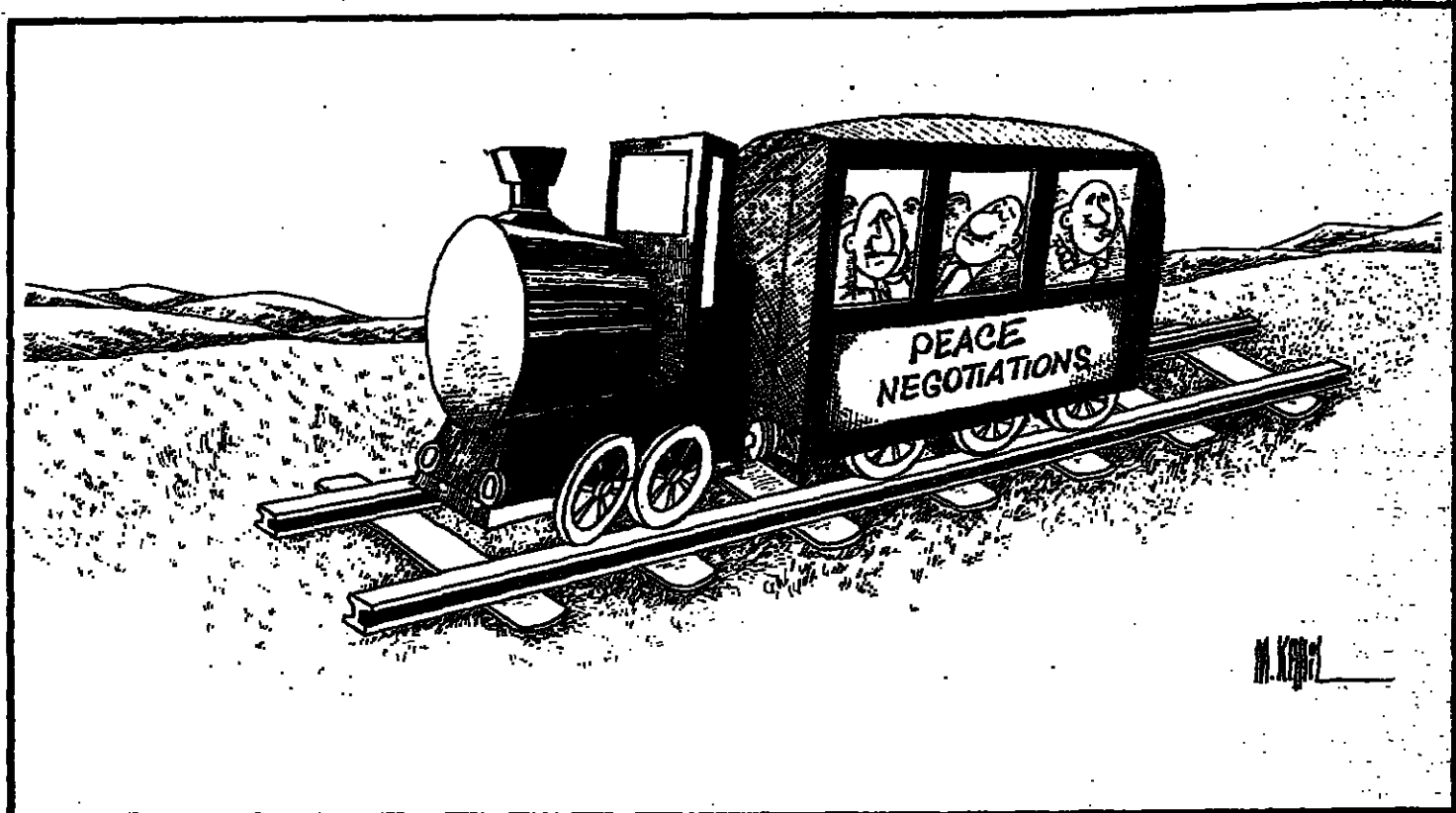
Shrugging off the shackles of its creditors and their watchdog, the International Monetary Fund, Brazil is surging ahead again. Economists will argue over how soundly based the recovery may be. The risks are great, senior officials admit, but politically and socially (for it has a strong conscience) the Sarney government feels it had no choice but to chart its own way forward out of recession.

The challenge of providing basic necessities of adequate housing, food, medical care and education for the 40 per cent of the population — 54 million people — who exist below the official poverty line is a daunting one.

Under the military, Brazil laid the foundations of its sophisticated industrial and physical infrastructure. But the price was a worsening of inequalities and a widening of the income gap. Without access to good public education or a welfare safety net, the economic gains of the 1960s and 1970s shown in national statistics were meaningless for many.

But nature has been bountiful in its gifts to Brazil and Brazilians have lived for centuries off its munificence. Agriculture is today making great strides in new crops such as soy and oranges, while expanding fast into new frontier zones in the centre-west and north-west of the country.

Mining has over the past year or two been the fastest growing sector, with major multinational concerns staking their claim to part of the action.



Aquino emerges as Cinderella of Philippine politics

By Jose Katigbak
Reuter

MANILA — Opposition candidate Corason Aquino has emerged as the Cinderella of Philippine politics. In a few weeks of campaigning she has transformed herself from underdog to frontrunner — in the eyes of her supporters and many observers — for next month's presidential poll.

Many diplomats, columnists and political analysts gave her little or no chance of defeating President Ferdinand Marcos when the official campaign opened on December 9.

Today the majority believe she has the edge. The general opinion of the man in the street appears to be that "Cory" Aquino should win easily in a clean election. But few think it will be clean.

Traditionally, Philippine elections have been marked by fraud and violence and there appears no indication that the February 7 poll will be any different.

Marcos, 68, has been in power for 20 years and insists he has the people's support for a new six-year mandate to turn around a declining economy and stamp out a Communist insurgency.

Marcos says private opinion polls gave him an "unbelievable" lead against his opponent, the 52-year-old widow of opposition leader Benigno Aquino, murdered in August 1983 on his return from self-imposed exile in the

United States.

Marcos' ruling New Society Movement (KBL) does have a well-oiled political machine which reaches down to village level. Most provincial governors, town and city mayors and barangay (village) leaders are KBL members.

But the key question is: Does Marcos have the backing of the Filipino people?

Aquino and her running-mate Salvador Laurel claim that, despite lack of funds, it is they who have this vital support.

In the four weeks since December 9 they have visited 24 of the country's 73 provinces, attracting enthusiastic crowds to their rallies.

In contrast, Marcos has drawn lacklustre and relatively small crowds in four, brief out-of-town forays.

Campaign turnouts may not necessarily reflect how people will vote, but opposition leaders believe this is the best indicator of support. In a clean election they expect to win at least 70 per cent of the votes.

Marcos, who has pledged a "clean and free election," has dismissed opposition claims as sheer nonsense. "The opposition may generate a lot of noise," he said, "but this is probably all it is going to produce, noise."

Perhaps remembering how the fairy-tale Cinderella lost everything at the stroke of midnight, Cory Aquino has told supporters to ensure victory is not overturned by fraud.

"Let us not win the voting only to lose in the counting," she said.

Laurel has urged voters to arm themselves with wooden clubs and surround polling precincts "to mete out people's justice on the spot to anyone who tries to cheat."

In view of Marcos' denials that he is in poor health, opposition leaders believe the reason he is not campaigning vigorously is that he has "something up his sleeve."

They see as more than just campaign oratory his charges that the opposition is receiving funds from the United States and is sympathetic to the Communists.

"It could be Marcos is already preparing the justification to re-impose martial law and cancel the election," said one opposition figure who asked not to be identified.

"Any analysis of the current political situation must be based on the premise that Marcos is not prepared to lose," said his former information minister Francisco Tatad.

Even Aquino, 52, is convinced that Marcos, who called the election 18 months ahead of time, has conceived a master plan to ensure his win.

"One day Marcos accuses us of receiving funds from the U.S. Next day he claims we have the support of the Communists. Which is which?" she asked at a recent campaign rally.

Aquino blossomed from a reluctant candidate to an active aspirant after more than one million people signed a petition last year calling on her to stand.

Before that she considered herself "just an ordinary housewife" and said there were many people "infinitely more qualified than me to become candidate."

Now she is not so timid. "If I can inspire millions of Filipinos to vote for me and elect me, then I think it should be no problem to inspire 50 dedicated, honest and qualified men and women to help me run the government," she told reporters.

"If Marcos was unable in 20 years to fulfill his promise 'to make this nation great again,' how can he do it in six years?" she asked.

She says that, if elected, she would amend the constitution to curtail the president's special powers to rule by decree.

She would free all political prisoners and negotiate a ceasefire with the estimated 15,000 armed Communist rebels.

Last month a Manila court found armed forces chief of staff General Fabian Ver, 24 military officers and one civilian not guilty of involvement in the murder of her husband.

The government says he was shot by a lone Communist agent who was immediately slain by airport security men.

THE Islamic foreign ministers conference in Morocco is discussing a number of issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic worlds. Among these are the Palestine issue and the Gulf conflict. Both of these are basic issues for Muslims and Arabs everywhere, and they are a common denominator for all Arab and Muslim nations. In addition, the conference is expected to examine the issue of U.S.-Israeli threats to Libya and international terrorism which is blamed by imperial forces on the Arabs and Islam. Representatives of the Arab and Islamic nations at the conference should tackle these issues bravely and seriously, and should prove themselves true representatives of people struggling to repel all forms of threats, injustice, subjugation and hegemony. The Arab people in general and the Palestinians and Iraqis in particular have been confronting aggression for so long and dealing with enemies that have designs and ambitions in the Arab World. The Palestinians have been dealing with the Israeli and Zionist aggression for more than 37 years and the Iraqis have been confronting Iranian aggression for more than five years. It is time for the foreign minister of Arab and Islamic nations to find means of restoring justice and peace to both of these peoples and their like in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Putting an end to aggression

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Al Dstour: Congratulations to Iraq

THE Iraqi armed forces have just celebrated their 65th anniversary, at a time when they are engaged in a conflict for defending Arab territory and the Arab Nation. The celebrations coincided with the announcement in Baghdad of the liberation of Majnoon Islands following an occupation by Iranian forces. As the conflict drags on, the Iraqi armed forces continue to prove to the world in general and the Arab and Islamic nations in particular that, though they can repel aggression, they hate to carry on the war and bring more bloodshed and destruction. Iraq which has fought alongside Arab armies in Palestine and the Golan should be supported by its brothers in the Arab World in its endeavours for reaching a peaceful settlement. We hate to see this war continuing because it entails great losses for the Arabs, and we would like to see Iraq freed from its responsibilities of defending the eastern flank of the Arab World to join concerted Arab efforts to deal with the Israeli enemy in Palestine.

Sawt Al Shaab: A chance for dialogue

THERE are plenty of subjects to be discussed during an Arab-American dialogue opening in Amman Tuesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. This dialogue is an important chance for the participants who group an elite of scholars and intellectuals to discuss the hot issues of this region including the Palestine problem. What this dialogue will offer and what the deliberations will be are indeed of great significance for the Arabs and Americans because they revolve around basic strategies and ideologies held by each side. This dialogue is expected to deal with the wars and the other dangers plaguing our region and the different attitudes of the European Community, the United States and other powers vis-a-vis the Middle East. The participants will be confronted with the intransigent American position, the American-Zionist alliance and the U.S. interests in the Arab World. One of the hypotheses that might come up at the meeting could focus on the way in which this alliance can be breached, and one answer might be through striking at American interests in a manner that would rouse the American people's desire to end the alliance.

Sri Lanka prepares to counter Tamil rebel attacks

By Dalton De Silva
Reuter

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka says its armed forces are now better trained and better equipped to tackle a violent campaign by Tamil rebels seeking to carve out a separate state on the ethnically-divided island.

With peace talks virtually stalemated, foreign diplomats predicted increased fighting in the conflict between majority Sinhalese and Tamils which has killed more than 3,000 people in the past three years.

"There are no signs of an early settlement of the dispute. On the contrary, the guerrilla war is likely to intensify despite the ceasefire," one diplomat said.

That truce came into force on June 18, but clashes are still reported almost daily from the Tamil bastions in the north and east.

President Junius Jayewardene has threatened to wipe out the rebels if talks failed to produce a political solution. "We are getting ready to take decisive military action if nothing comes out of the negotiations," he told India Today magazine in a recent interview.

The government has allocated 5.85 billion rupees (\$216 million) for defence in 1986, the biggest item in the budget, and has started beefing up the security forces.

"To serve our country, come join the navy," says a typical newspaper advertisement published by defence authorities who have started recruiting thousands of men to the security forces.

The government's obsolete armoury has now been replaced by Italian Marchetti fighter bombers, gunship helicopters, armoured personnel carriers, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

"Our forces are now better trained and better equipped. That is why they could repulse recent attacks on police stations," said National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali.

Israeli experts are teaching the troops intelligence gathering and strategy, while former members of Britain's elite Special Air Service (SAS) unit are training them in anti-guerrilla warfare, diplomats said.

The rebels themselves are now using rocket-propelled grenades, mortars, Russian AK-47 rifles, different types of machine guns and self-loading rifles, Indian-made grenades and landmines to attack military convoys and establishments, one security official said.

He estimated the strength of the rebels movement at about 10,000 men and women, of whom about 5,000 are armed.

He said there were five major guerrilla groups with their leaders based in Madras, southern India and about 35 small splinter groups.

While troops are battling guerrillas in northern and eastern areas, the government has launched a war on another front — propaganda.

It has started briefings for Colombo-based representatives of international organisations, diplomats and journalists on what it calls the true position regarding the conflict.

The move follows statements issued by Madras-based rebel groups accusing troops of going on the rampage and killing hundreds of Tamil civilians and burning their houses.

"These statements are utter rubbish ... part of a well-orchestrated campaign by terrorists to win the sympathy of Westerners and Tamils in India," said a defence spokesman.

He told diplomats rebels were responsible for 817 killings last year up to December 20.

Lieutenant General Cyril Ranatunga, commander of joint anti-guerrilla operations, denied atrocity charges against his men, saying: "I am very strict on the security forces who come under my command."

"I have impressed on them the need to conduct any operation as highly disciplined servicemen," said Ranatunga, who carries the Dalapam, a book of Buddhist holy verses, in his briefcase.

A ceasefire monitoring committee appointed by Jayewardene

in October has not been able to stop the fighting. The body has blamed rebels for attacking military convoys by setting off landmines, but has also confirmed some complaints that the armed forces killed civilians and burned houses.

The truce was arranged by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to create an atmosphere conducive to peace talks. But the talks between Sri Lankan officials and Tamils collapsed in Bhutan in August after the two sides accused each other of violating the truce.

Efforts by India to bring the two sides back for talks have so far failed because of difficulties in bridging the basic stands taken by the two sides, diplomats said.

They said the militants were not prepared to budge from their demand for a separate Tamil state called Eelam in northern and eastern provinces where most of the island's Tamils live.

The Tamil United Liberation Front, a moderate political party, says meanwhile it would consider a less radical solution — the merger of the two provinces with guarantees of autonomy.

Security Minister Athulathmudali has rejected both the idea of a separate state and the proposed merger, but said the government was prepared to grant a measure of autonomy to the two provinces through a system of provincial councils.

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Din of angry voices sounds above clatter of hoofbeats

By Mercer Cross
National Geographic

LOVELL, Wyo. — A few miles up the dusty, rutted ravine lies the rotting corpse of a sorrel mustang, its teeth grinning grotesquely in its hollow-eyed skull.

"They have to save the range, and they're getting rid of the wild horses, that's all," growls Lloyd Tillet as he examines the carcass. "No other reason; just get rid of 'em."

Tillet is a tough, grizzled cattle rancher who has spent all of his 65 years riding the plateaus and gulches of southern Montana, not far from Lovell. He saw the territory of the mustangs become the Pryor Mountains Wild Horse Range, the first of its kind in the nation, by order of the U.S. secretary of the interior in 1968.

Wide range of wildlife

To this day, Tillet detests the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management, which manages the 46,800-acre range and its varied wildlife — deer, elk, bear, and bighorn sheep, as well as horses. "When they made a wild-horse refuge out of it, they had the BLM take care of the horses," he says. "They've just been trying to kill 'em."

Tillet's denunciations do not go unchallenged at the BLM. Jeanne W. Jack of Billings, Mont., the bureau's area manager and the responsible person for administering policies for the Pryor Range, responds with equal determination but far less vitriol.

He dismisses Tillet's charges of horse-killing and defends the bureau's management plan for the Pryor horses. "I don't think we would," he says, "if we had the intention of trying to totally remove them, because we have no intentions of

doing that," he insists. Of the carcass in the gully, Jack explains that it was one of about 30 horses, none of them from the Pryor Range, that had died after being rounded up and processed for adoption in a corral. Out of the 1,300 head processed over a 20-month period, he says, "that's less than a two-per cent loss."

Moreover, Jack adds, he expects the BLM management plan for the Pryor Range, a beautiful, remote area of high grasslands and deep limestone canyons, to succeed. "In my own mind," he says, "I feel very proud to be affiliated with the horse range there."

In Washington, John Boyles, chief of the BLM's Division of Wild Horses and Burros, says: "The bureau has never advocated getting rid of them. In fact, all of the planning that we've been doing and are going to be doing between now and 1988 takes into account wild horses and burros as a resource."

Montana-Wyoming border

Tillet's antipathy probably doesn't typify the attitude of the average resident of Lovell, about 13 miles south of the border-straddling wild-horse range, a tourist attraction in the sparsely populated area.

But the same kind of criticism that Tillet directs at the BLM in Billings is heard at a national level, much of it from animal-protection groups and, for altogether different reasons, from livestock growers.

The principal target of the protectionists' ire is the bureau's goal of reducing the number of America's wild horses and burros, now estimated at about 56,000, to between 25,000 and 30,000. The animals graze on 47.5 million acres of public land in 10 western states.

An estimated 155 mustangs roam the range in three separate bands. According to the BLM plan, that number should be cut to 121.

Those figures, says the bureau, represent the optimum number of the animals that can be allowed to roam freely on federal lands without disrupting the overall environmental picture.

Nonsense, say the opponents, who dispute not only the bureau's population estimates and the use of its lands, but its methods of disposing of what it calls "excess" horses and burros.

"They take it from the point of view, in our opinion, that land out there belongs to the ranchers," says Joan Blue, president of the American Horse Protection Association. "We don't believe it does. It belongs to all Americans. It's public land. We start from the premise that the BLM is in the pocket of the ranchers and the cattle barons."

To which Boyles responds: "We obviously have got a job to do, and part of it does involve livestock. Part of it's wild horses, and part of it's habitat for wildlife. So in a way you could say the BLM is in the pocket of all those people."

Cattleman denies clout

Ronald A. Micheli, director of natural resources for the National Cattlemen's Association, scoffs at Blue's allegation. "If we had that kind of political power," he says, "obviously there wouldn't be a need for a BLM and a Forest Service. We'd take care of the lands ourselves. It's pretty obvious that we don't have that sort of control over 'em. I think what we do have is some rights out there that we exercise."

Wild horses' chief natural enemy is man. Threatened by few



Ears laid back, a mustang mare (right) fights off a stallion. Wild stallions often nip and chase mares to keep their hands moving and grazing together. America's wild horses, protected by federal law since 1971, have been a source of controversy for

predators, the hardy animals increase rapidly. The BLM estimate is 15 to 20 per cent a year. A 1982 study by the National Academy of Sciences concluded that the rate is 10 per cent or less.

How is the rapidly expanding horse and burro population to be held down? Since 1973, under the BLM's adoption programme, more than 61,000 animals have been sold to individual Americans. As a result of early abuses of the animals, the programme has been modified in several ways, including a limit of four animals to a single adopter.

Only old, sick, and lame animals may legally be put to death. The bureau has had a moratorium since 1982 on the destruction of healthy horses.

In fiscal year 1985, which ended Sept. 30, the BLM spent \$16.7 million on the horse and burro programme. Congress has not yet

set a figure for the current fiscal year. Meanwhile, about 10,000 captured animals are awaiting adoption. Legislation has been drafted, but not introduced, that would permit the BLM to auction off, over a three-year period, a maximum of 15,000 excess wild horses and burros.

Such a bill would touch off an immediate outcry from animal-protection groups, because it inevitably would consign some of the animals to pet-food plants and glue factories. It would be construed as a huge backward step from the law passed in 1971 to protect the horses and burros.

Group charges cruelty

Joan Blue's organisation disapproves even of the existing adoption programme, "because in so many cases it's just a disaster wait-

ing to happen," she says. "There's a tremendous amount of cruelty and negligence on their (the BLM's) part."

On the other side of the argument is Micheli of the Cattlemen's Association. Some action must be taken to lower the numbers, he says, "and if it requires destruction, that's what it ought to be."

Boyles is caught in the middle. "I'm satisfied with the programme," he says. "I guess the only portion that I'm dissatisfied with is the disposition of healthy excess animals once you have to take 'em off the range. How do you dispose of 'em?"

"I don't think we've got an adequate answer," he says, "and I'm the last guy who wants to be branded a horse-killer. But pure and simple, the programme we've got now just can't handle it."

UPI's flamboyant new owner

Mr. Mario Vazquez Rana, the new owner of the troubled UPI news agency, does not lack self-confidence. David Gardner asked him how and why he had rescued UPI, but got few answers.

MEXICO CITY — On the day of the first earthquake to hit Mexico City in September, the local bureau of United Press International (UPI), which like many foreign news organisations had its downtown offices here, was wrecked. The building, a temporary accommodation in the headquarters of El Sol, a Mexican daily.

The move proved fortuitous, and in the corporate sense, permanent. Two months later, El Sol's publisher, Mr. Mario Vazquez Rana, bought the enormously profitable UPI news agency, which had been the financial backbone of the UPI news agency, claiming a deal which has perplexed analysts here and north of the border.

Mr. Vazquez Rana paid \$25 million for 90 per cent of UPI, with a commitment to inject a further \$15 million over the next four years. A rival bidder, Mr. Joe Russo, a Houston real estate developer, was brought into the new company, New UPI Incorporated, registered in Delaware, at the last minute, with the remaining 10 per cent.

UPI had applied for Chapter 11 bankruptcy earlier this year after swinging staff and salary cuts and the sale of its pictures division to Reuters, the U.K.-based news and financial information agency, failed to make much impact on accumulated debt of \$41 million. As part of the deal, Mr. Vazquez will, within 120 days, fully compensate UPI's smaller creditors and pay off individual claims of more than \$3,000 at 40 cents in the dollar.

UPI's new owner, at 53 years, is an engaging, self-made man, the son of immigrants to Mexico from Galicia in Spain. He is best known here as one of four brothers who built up the leading Hermanos Vazquez furniture and white goods retail chain.

Prior to the UPI deal, his fame dates from his surprise 1976 purchase of the El Sol newspaper chain. It has always been thought this was in concert with the political ambitions of Mr. Luis Echeverria, his friend and patron who was outgoing president of Mexico at the time.

Mr. Vazquez's own ambitions are harder to fathom. Those who

know him believe his ultimate goal is to become president of the International Olympic Committee — he is already president of the Mexican Olympic Committee, of the International Association of Olympic Committees, and of the Organising Committee for the Pan-American Games. Quite how ownership of a failing international news agency will further this ambition is far from clear.

Mr. Vazquez's own description of his part, his fortune, his drive, and his plans for UPI is full of superlatives and full of holes. The UPI deal, he says, "was the cleanest and most open in business history," and he personally has "the cleanest record of anyone in Mexico." He describes himself as "the most international person in Mexico," and, in passing, claims his Guadalajara-based El Occidente daily is "the best paper in the country."

His larger-than-life self-embellishment is visually complemented by what must be one of the more luxurious publisher's offices in the world.

His third-floor headquarters, broken up by interior gardens complete with fountains, contain not only a boardroom, computer room and cinema, but also a gymnasium, sauna and hairdresser, plus a bar and dining room which would do credit to a 5-star hotel. "I like to show this to my critics so they feel envious," he remarks while conducting a brief tour of the premises.

There is almost no free wall-space. As well as a separate trophy room (Mr. Vazquez is a first-class shot, competing for Mexico in the 1972 Olympics), the walls are plastered with insignia and photographs of himself with assorted heads of state, Mexican presidents and international sports people.

In his personal office for example, above scale models of his three executive jets, signed portraits of the Pope and Fidel Castro of Cuba hang side by side — "for balance," he says. President Castro has since fallen out with Mr. Vazquez, publicly accusing him of giving the next Panamerican games to Indianapolis instead of Havana.

The two questions Mr. Vazquez has had to answer most often in the past month concern "balance" — whether or not UPI will be given free rein to report as its editors and journalists see fit, particularly on Mexico — and what his plans for the news agency really are.

No newspaper publisher in Mexico is immune from government pressure. The state controls the newspaper monopoly. Pipsa, and can make or break many publications through the volume of advertising it places.

Mr. Vazquez acknowledges that his purchase of the El Sol chain, which he has built from a 34- to 62-paper group with a claimed circulation of more than 2 million and unequalled provincial coverage, was facilitated by his friendship with President Echeverria. He says he paid \$12.8 million for 75 per cent of the group, then in state receivership, and then spent \$72 million cleaning up its debts.

Until 1977, the former President's principal aide, Mr. Fausto Zapata, was a prominent associate, but then Mr. Vazquez claims to have bought out all his partners and restored the group's independence.

"If you can find more than 10 mentions of Echeverria after that I'll give you 5 million pesos for each one," he exclaims with characteristic flourish.

However, under Echeverria's successor, President Jose Lopez Portillo, Mr. Vazquez bought Mexico Radio SA (known locally as ABC Internacional) and promptly axed a current affairs programme critical of the government. Despite this he claims not to alter a line in his papers, though he shows visitors a little editorial where "I like to write two editorials a day when I'm here."

The UPI operation will be "crystalline," he says, and scoffs at suggestions that the purchase is in any sense connected to long-standing Third World efforts to challenge the dominance of the major western news agencies and create "a new information order." He plans to create a board of up to 20 U.S. media notables to scrutinise UPI's operations, but is extremely vague on how he plans to relaunch the agency.

He says he has made an ex-

haustive study of the market, although it was put to him that the 78-year-old UPI lost its battle with Associated Press, the U.S.'s main international news agency, largely because of the growing specialisation implied by AP's association with the Dow Jones Company to provide an economic service.

Reuters' lucrative switch towards providing economic data was another factor as were the syndication services provided by the major U.S. papers which have sharply reduced the space for a general news agency.

Mr. Vazquez talks generally about the need to "improve oneself," about new technology, and when pressed to be specific, about boosting economic and sports coverage and a news agency equivalent of the social pages programme in most newspapers in this region.

Like most Mexican businessmen, Mr. Vazquez is cautious about the size and source of his wealth.

From loading refrigerators into lorries aged 15 he says he sold his quarter share in Hermanos Vazquez to his brothers for \$25 million in 1981, which is plausible at that year's rate of exchange of 22 pesos to the dollar (he simultaneously sold real estate holdings worth 700 million pesos, he says, for a further \$32 million).

Less plausible are his claims that he bought the dollars to buy UPI from the Bank of Mexico (at rates of up to 500 pesos to the dollar), and that unlike most of a business class which holds up to \$30 billion in foreign bank accounts, he has no dollars abroad.

What is the El Sol group worth? "I wouldn't take \$400 million for it," he says, a price which most analysts find outlandish, even though the chain includes Mexico's main sports daily, Esto, and the group's costs have been sharply reduced by the introduction of up-to-date technology.

Mr. Vazquez is known to have made money from government contracts. In the early 70s, for example, he was granted the country's sole firearms concession when restrictions on arms sales to the public were introduced after guerrilla violence began in the south.

Financial Times news feature,

Computers take off in China, but not without problems

By Graham Earnshaw
Reuters

PEKING — Early this year a foreign computer dealer is said to have hired a Boeing 747 cargo plane in London, filled it with IBM personal computers and flown straight to Shanghai where he had a buyer for every single one.

The story may be apocryphal, but it illustrates an important trend: while the Chinese are not about to give up their abacuses, they are taking to computers in a big way.

In northwest Peking is China's own Silicon Valley, a road lined with scientific institutes involved in computer research and a series of small shops where China-assembled copies of IBM and Apple micro-computers are on sale.

Meanwhile state television seems to have a news item every night about how another part of the sprawling Chinese bureaucracy has computerized itself.

In 1984 and the first half of this year, China imported a flood of computers, including anything up to 100,000 IBM (International Business Machines) PC computers — the number varies depending on whom you talk to.

The flood has been stemmed by restrictions on foreign currency purchases imposed last March by the central government to help halt a sharp decline in China's foreign exchange reserves.

But the computers are now here, and China is slowly learning how to use them. It is not a painless process.

Foreign computer executives tell horror stories about how computers are being misused or under-used, and many of the machines bought during the recent "micro-computer glut" are said to be gathering dust in offices all over China.

"Only a short while ago, Chinese organisations were purchasing computer hardware with little thought as to how they would use it," said Richard Leung, managing director of Wang Com-

puter's China subsidiary. "The literally thousands of PCS (personal computers) that today sit idle throughout China for lack of a useful purpose testify to that attitude."

Other foreign executives criticised the Chinese for their tendency to buy computers without the software application programmes which make them work their wonders.

The Chinese are also reluctant to sign service contracts with foreign firms with the result, the foreign executives say, that machines sit idle waiting for repairs or are damaged by Chinese technicians who do not fully understand them.

One of the biggest problems the Chinese have with computers is their own written language, which consists of thousands of different characters.

How to computerise this immensely complex writing system has occupied the attention of hundreds of engineers the world over in the past decade, and there are now said to be over 200 different systems for computerizing Chinese in China alone.

There is no sign yet of a standard emerging.

One foreign computer expert said he knew a scientist in Shanghai who had programmed his computer to accept Chinese characters using 15 different input methods, including one where you type an English word and the computer checks its dictionary and places the Chinese equivalent on the screen.

The language problem is partly responsible for the huge number of computers sitting idle around the country.

"Most of them are not set up to handle Chinese characters and most users don't speak English," said one foreign computer firm executive with a sigh.

The Chinese government clearly hopes that imports can eventually be replaced by locally-made machines. Three U.S. companies have signed deals under which full assembly of small computers is expected to begin sometime in 1986.

Bijan — Clothier for the rich and the royal

By Robert Basler
Reuters

NEW YORK — The holiday shopping frenzy was at its peak and most stores along Manhattan's elegant Fifth Avenue were jammed, but behind the locked doors of a place called Bijan there was only one customer.

At this men's store, where suits start at \$2,200, perfume goes for \$1,500 a bottle and a chinchilla bedspread carries a \$94,000 price tag, one customer at a time is quite enough.

At Bijan, shopping is by appointment only. There are no catalogues and nothing is put on sale, not even after Christmas.

What the shop offers, explains Iranian-born owner Bijan Pakzad, is simply "clothing for people who don't need anything in my type of line."

"I design for people that are very difficult, very powerful, people with wealth," explains the 45-year-old designer, known professionally only as Bijan.

President Reagan, King Juan Carlos of Spain and entertainers Frank Sinatra and Cary Grant are widely reported to be among the rich and the royal who come from some 50 countries to spend fortunes on Bijan's clothes.

The designer himself is coy about naming his customers, but he "salutes" some of them with a gallery of special clocks bearing their names, tucked safely back in a corner where only other customers may appreciate the shrine.

Bijan's Fifth Avenue showroom features stunning twin brass and glass staircases, a baccarat crystal chandelier and carefully-arranged Flemish tapestry, all designed to enhance racks of clothing quietly closeted behind French doors.

Shoes, starting around \$550, are shown on an antique butcher block table, and ties, \$110 each, are exhibited among bottles of fine wine.

The store gets three or four sets of customers daily, and tries to ensure as much privacy as possible. A Bijan employee shudders as he recalls one recent hectic Saturday, when there were nine people in the shop at once.

Bijan estimates that 75 per cent of his customers have their own planes — one American industrialist recently spent \$450,000 for two beaver Bijan bedspreads for his jet — and 90 per cent have at least four or five homes.

Not that Bijan himself is doing too badly.

The ever-smiling designer, who frequently couples comments about his remarkable success with the hope that he does not sound like a snob, says his two-year-old New York store and 13-year-old Beverly Hills shop have sales of \$10 million this year.

"I have my own car collection,

my own plane, homes all over, clothes as much as you want... more than this I do not need it, if I do not sound snobby," he says in heavily-accented English.

Born in Tehran, Bijan studied fashion in Paris, then gradually introduced his designs in Italy before moving to the United States, where he is now a citizen. He designs everything he sells, starting with the fabric, and most of his line is made at his own factory near Florence in Italy.

Malcolm Forbes, the colourful multi-millionaire publisher and businessman, recently described Bijan's success as a "fashion miracle" in an inscription in the shop's guest book. Forbes went on to say he "would not have bet a nickel" on the success of such an enterprise.

Bijan sees himself as more than just a designer or tailor.

"I am like a doctor to my clients," he says. "I tell them how to get dressed, when to wear clothing. I study about my client — his age, his weight, his profession. I know what he had last season and what he will need this season and, believe it or not, what he will need next season."

"I am proud of myself, that I can talk to so many Americans or Europeans or Middle Easterners and tell them what to do."

Not all customers can make it to one of Bijan's showrooms — "many of them need a White House invitation to come to the United States," he explains — so several times a year he makes "house calls," either in his own plane or in one sent by a client.

Generally speaking, Bijan says, it is a good thing his stores are located in the United States, because American men need his help more than most.

"I find American men compared with the British and Italians and Frenchmen I know do not have such good taste. Men in America don't want to be called men who dress up."

Bijan says he is aware that there are a few Americans who "have the taste but have not the money," so he has come up with a new line of perfumes to be sold at department stores starting next year.

These will be priced at \$60 to \$80 a bottle, considerably less than the \$1,500 he charges for each crystal bottle of his own special fragrance. But he laments that there seems little he can do for such people in the way of clothing without cheapening his product.

"Everything is relative," he shrugs. "You can get from here to Los Angeles by bus, or by a plane, or you can have a charter or you can have your own plane."

"All of them will get you to Los Angeles," his voice trails off, and the message seems to be that most of the world had better just head for the bus station.

Exhibition takes a 35-million year journey through man's history

By Tim Heritage
Reuters

LONDON — A major new exhibition in London tracing the history of mankind takes visitors on a 35 million year journey which organisers hope holds a lesson for the future.

Combining flashing lights, advanced technology and homes more than one million years ago, "The Human Story" starts with "Big Bang" at the creation of the universe and ends by asking how man can prevent a similar explosion destroying him.

"The aim is to make people feel man's development wasn't some strange mystery. It's their own story," says James Porter, Director of the Commonwealth Institute, the cultural and educational centre where the exhibition opened recently.

Porter hopes the exhibition — expected to be seen by about two million people in 10 countries in Europe and Africa — will help them think about the problems facing man today by depicting difficulties he has overcome in the past.

"It shows how man survived an extremely hostile environment and lived in peace. Our evidence shows racism is a scientific stupidity as most humans are from the same genetic group. What unites us is far greater than what divides us," Porter said.

The idea for "The Human Story" was conceived in Nairobi in 1982 when Porter met Richard Leakey, Kenya's director of National Museums and the elder son of palaeontologists Louis and Mary Leakey.

"We found it curious that people in Africa were on the very edge of survival, yet this was where mankind began. We thought it would be good to look at how this

happened," Porter said. The emphasis of the exhibition is on involving visitors by allowing them to handle ancient tools, press buttons on screens and make models move and light up.

Climatic conditions are simulated as the visitor moves from the Pacific islands to the Antarctic and later comes face-to-face with a life-size model of a 3.2 million-year-old female ape.

Complex audio-visual programmes of moving thousands of years from one stage of man's development to the next, there are "time-boxes" — small rooms linking each stage with a soothing voice to introduce what the visitor is about to see.

"You don't have to stop at every part of the exhibition. You can get the general idea through a series of images, which come pouring in at you like a giant kaleidoscope," said David Pitham, professor of anthropology at Harvard University and one of the organisers.

The exhibition, which adheres to the "Big Bang" theory that the universe began with a giant explosion many millions of years ago, includes a 1.6 million-year-old human skeleton on public display for the first time.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to have any fossils they have collected examined free by experts.

"The Human Story" closes in London in February, and goes on to Amsterdam, Stockholm, Bremen, Vienna and Paris. After some modification, it moves to Africa, stopping in Accra, Lagos, Harare, Nairobi, and either Dakar or Kinshasa.

Visitors in all these cities will be asked to take part in a survey and say what they think should be done to ensure that man does not destroy himself.

Hijacks turn tourists away, cut Egypt's earnings

By Bahgat Badie
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt is facing a disastrous tourist slump at the height of the season, with visitors scared off by the Achille Lauro crisis and the bloody hijacking of an Egyptian plane.

A senior Egyptian official said at least 40 per cent of passengers booked from abroad had cancelled their reservations since the hijack last month, costing the national treasury about \$8 million.

"This is not a crisis, it's a catastrophe. It seems we have become a target of terrorism," the official told Reuters.

Travel agents are also feeling

from mass cancellations from Europe and the United States, from which most tourists come to see the Pyramids, the Nile, 7,000-year-old Pharaonic sites and a wealth of Roman, Christian and Islamic monuments.

"We have had up to 80 per cent cancellations and more are expected. If it continues this way, we are out of business," said Sherif Kamel, a director of the Arab Investment Tourist Company, one of dozens of firms hit by the crisis.

Government officials — already anxious over falling or stagnant income from oil, Suez Canal charges, and remittances by Egyptians working abroad — predict the economy will plunge deeper

into the red. The spate of violence included Israel's October 1 air raid on PLO's headquarters in Tunis and the killing of seven Israeli tourists in Egypt four days later.

Then came the hijacking of the Italian Achille Lauro cruise liner on which a U.S. passenger was killed, the U.S. interception and forcing down of an Egyptian jet carrying the hijackers and violent anti-American demonstrations in Cairo.

Capping the bad news, the hijack of an Egyptian airliner ended in mass bloodshed when Egyptian commandos raided the plane at Malta's Luqa Airport. There was even a hint that war might flare

with neighbouring Libya — fueling a foreign view of Egypt as a risky place for a quiet vacation.

The tourism crisis is all the greater because winter is the high season in Egypt, with a balmy climate similar to the European spring.

Tourism ministry officials forecast income from visitors this year at only \$300 million — half last year's figure — as a direct result of the year-end violence.

Prime Minister Ali Lotfi, appointed in September to gear up the economy, says his government will do all it can to sell Egypt's tourist trade, which accounts for only one per cent of world tourism despite its archaeological riches.

"It is illogical that a country like

Spain is visited by about 41 million tourists a year, while Egypt only receives 1.5 million," he said in a recent interview.

While no-one disputes that the association with violence has undermined tourism, some Egyptians feel Washington has done nothing to boost the image of its ally.

Sherif Kamel notes European countries have not suffered a dramatic fall in tourism despite home-grown urban guerrilla groups like France's Action Directe or Spain's Basque separatists.

English League loses its sponsor

LONDON (R) — The English soccer league, already bedeviled by problems, was dealt a new blow Tuesday when its sponsors, the Japanese photographic company Canon, announced they will end their support at the end of the season.

The company said they will not be renewing a £3.2 million (\$4.8 million) three-year contract due to expire in May.

The league has been banned indefinitely from European club competitions and is struggling against falling attendances and widespread financial problems.

But Canon stressed that their decision was not due to the battered image of British soccer following the tragedies at Bradford and Brussels last year which cost more than 90 lives.

Company spokesman Martin Walter said: "Our decision was made after a lot of soul-searching and long-term discussion. But it has very little to do with the tarnished image of the game."

Walter said the decision was

taken "for business reasons only." The announcement comes as a bitter blow to English soccer as it attempts to recover from an appalling year in 1985.

Last weekend saw English soccer televised for the first time this season after a prolonged dispute between the league and television authorities.

League Secretary Graham Kelly said: "Naturally we are very disappointed to lose Canon's sponsorship, but we obviously respect the reasons for making this decision."

"But we do not feel that this is a bad reflection on football at all. Because it has been so successful, we are very optimistic that we will find a successor," he concluded.

Concern rises over missing cyclist

IN SALAH, Algeria (AP) — A Dutch motorcyclist, Arjan Brouwer, 27, competing in the Paris-Dakar rally, has been missing since midday Saturday and air searches Sunday failed to turn up any trace of him, organisers said. The effort to find him was made difficult because one of his teammates on the KTM-Netherlands team, Gerhard Rond, said Brouwer began Saturday's stage without a special radio device that all contestants are supposed to carry to help planes find them in case they get lost or have an accident. Rond said Brouwer also left without a water sack and may not have filled his gas tank.

McEnroe, Connors win in Atlanta games

ATLANTA (R) — John McEnroe beat fellow American Kevin Curren and Jimmy Connors of the United States defeated Yannick Noah of France Monday night in the first matches of the eight-man, round-robin Atlanta challenge men's tournament.

McEnroe at first showed signs of rust in his return to competition following a 21-day suspension, but closed strongly with tough first serves and perfectly angled volleys to beat Curren 7-6 (6-5) 6-1.

McEnroe, ranked number two in the world, was suspended last December after exceeding the \$7,500 limit in fines for 12 months.

It was also Curren's first match after a layoff. He missed two months because of an ankle injury.

Connors, ranked fourth in the world, won his first set 6-4 and broke Noah again in the second but the seventh-rated Frenchman came charging back with a strong serve-and-volley game to even the set at 6-6. Connors won the tie-breaker 7-5.

The tournament features the top eight players in the world at the time of last year's U.S. Open. Meanwhile, top seed Ivan Lendl will play Tomas Smid and McEnroe will face Brad Gilbert in first-round matches of next week's

\$500,000 Masters tennis tournament, tournament organisers announced Monday night.

Lendl, the current U.S. Open champion and the Masters winner in 1982 and 1983, is 9-1 against his fellow Czechoslovak and has won their last seven meetings.

McEnroe, the two-time defending champion, is 7-0 against fellow-American Gilbert, who is playing in his first Masters.

On Jan. 14, the opening day of the tournament at Madison Square Garden, third seed Mats Wilander of Sweden will face American Scott Davis and fourth seed Jimmy Connors of the United States will open his 11th Masters against Henri Leconte of France.

Stefan Edberg of Sweden will play Johan Kriek of the United States and 18-year-old sensation Boris Becker of West Germany will make his Masters debut against Paul Annacone of the United States.

Wednesday will feature the Lendl and McEnroe matches, an all-Swedish battle between Anders Jarryd and Joakim Nyström and a meeting of Yannick Noah of France and American Tim Mayotte.

Lendl and Connors are seeded to meet in the semi-finals with Wilander and McEnroe in the other half.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IAAF adjusts Cram's, Aonita's records

LONDON (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has ratified world records held by Briton Steve Cram and Moroccan Said Aouita as one hundredth of a second slower than previously declared, in IAAF spokesman said Tuesday. Cram's record for the mile, which he set in Oslo last July, will now officially be three minutes 46.32 seconds and Aouita's 1500 metres record, established in West Berlin last August, will be 3:29.46 seconds, the spokesman said. Careful examination of photo-finish pictures showed photos developed immediately after the races were slightly inaccurate, but the IAAF remains satisfied with the photo-finish procedure, he said. The world 400 metres hurdles record of East German Sabine Busch was also adjusted to 53.55 seconds, one hundredth of a second faster than declared after the race in East Berlin last September, he added.

Wilander withdraws from Atlanta tourney

ATLANTA (R) — Mats Wilander of Sweden has withdrawn from an eight-man round-robin tennis tournament here this week because of an arm injury. However, a spokeswoman for the Grand Prix in New York said the injury is not expected to keep Wilander out of the Masters championships which start next Wednesday at Madison Square Garden. Wilander has been replaced in the challenge tennis event, which is expected to start Tuesday night, by compatriot Stefan Edberg. Wilander developed an inflammation in his right arm during the junior Masters tournament in Berlin last week but continued to compete, losing in the final to West Germany's Boris Becker, 6-1, 7-6, 6-0.

Bramble to defend WBA title on Feb. 16

NEW YORK (R) — Livingstone Bramble will defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) lightweight title against Tyrone Crawley on Feb. 16 in Reno, Nevada, promoter Bob Arum announced Monday. The fight had been scheduled for last Nov. 23 but was postponed after Crawley suffered a hand injury. Bramble has a 23-1-1 record with 15 knockouts. He won the WBA title on June 1, 1984 when he stopped Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini in the 14th round in Buffalo, New York. Bramble subsequently scored a 15-round decision over Mancini in a return bout. Crawley, the top-ranked contender, is 19-1 with six knockouts.

Testerman survives 4-hour marathon

AUCKLAND (R) — Second-seeded American Ben Testerman survived six match points before beating Australian qualifier Neil Borwick in the first round of the Auckland Grand Prix tennis tournament Tuesday. Borwick, 18, kept Testerman on court for over four hours before the American squeezed through 6-3, 6-7, 14-12. The Australian challenge suffered two more blows when sixth-seeded Peter Doohan and Brod Dyke, the number seven seed, both made first round exits against American opponents. Doohan was beaten 7-5, 6-3 by Tomm Warneke, while Dyke went down 6-2, 6-1 against Bill Scanlon, winner of this event in 1982. Top seed Bud Schultz of the United States avoided such embarrassment with an effortless 6-0, 6-0 victory over New Zealand qualifier Simon Robinson.

NOTICE

I, Pius Alex Mirzello, an Indian national residing in Jordan, hereby announce my intention to marry Welakutuge Piyaselli, a Sri Lankan national residing in Jordan. The marriage will be solemnised by the embassy of India, Amman, under provisions stipulated by the Government of India after 30 days from the date hereof.

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- A. Project description:
The project consists of the following components:
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— Two training centres at Aqaba and at Safi of 2500 sq.m. each.

- B. The project is financed partially by the World Bank.

- C. All bidders to submit their offers in two separate sealed envelopes. The first shall include qualification data together with an up-to-date grading certificate issued by the Engineers Association in 1986. The second envelope shall include prices along with a bid bond amounting to JD 500, valid for 60 days at least.

- D. Project documents along with instructions for preparing prequalification statements may be obtained from the address below against a non-refundable sum of JD 25.

- The last date for obtaining the above documents shall be 18th Jan. 1986.
- The last date for submission of offers is 12.00 noon on Monday Feb. 3rd 1986.

- E. All correspondence should be addressed to
Director General
Vocational Training Corporation
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Tel. 667197, 667198.

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SITTING ROOM, FAMILY ROOM, BEDROOM, KITCHEN, BATH, MASTER BEDROOM, CHILDREN'S ROOM, ENTRY, CLOSET, TERRACE, GARAGE, POOL, TENNIS COURT, GOLF COURSE, CLUBHOUSE, RESTAURANT, BAR, SPA, SAUNA, JACUZZI, LAUNDRY, STORAGE, FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, UTENSILS, LINENS, CLOTHING, SHOES, BAGS, BELTS, HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES, TIE, JEWELRY, WATCHES, CLOCKS, FRAMES, CARPETS, CURTAINS, BLINDS, SHUTTERS, DOORS, WINDOWS, ROOF, FLOORS, WALLS, CEILING, LIGHTS, FANS, HEATING, COOLING, AIR-CONDITIONING, SPLIT-UNIT, CENTRAL, RADIATORS, BOILERS, PUMPS, VALVES, TUBES, FITTINGS, PLUMBING, ELECTRICITY, WIRING, SWITCHES, OUTLETS, CIRCUITRY, TELEPHONE, CABLE, ANTENNA, SATELLITE, RADIO, TV, VCR, STEREO, RECORDERS, CAMERAS, MICROS, SPEAKERS, HEADPHONES, EARRINGS, NECKLACES, BRACELETS, RINGS, DIAMONDS, GEMSTONES, METALS, ALLOYS, COMPOUNDS, MIXTURES, SOLUTIONS, SUSPENSIONS, EMULSIONS, COLLOIDS, GELS, FOAMS, AEROSOLS, PASTES, POWDERS, CRYSTALS, LIQUIDS, SOLIDS, GASES, PLASMAS, BEAMS, WAVES, PARTICLES, ATOMS, MOLECULES, IONS, ELECTRONS, PROTONS, NEUTRONS, PHOTONS, GLUONS, QUARKS, LEPTONS, BOSONS, FERMIONS, SPIN, ORBIT, ANGULAR MOMENTUM, ENERGY, MASS, CHARGE, COLOR, FLAVOR, STRONG, WEAK, ELECTROMAGNETIC, GRAVITATIONAL, FUNDAMENTAL, INTERACTIONS, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, MEDICINE, AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY, ART, MUSIC, LITERATURE, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, SOCIETY, CULTURE, ECONOMY, POLITICS, LAW, ETHICS, MORALS, RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE, NATURE, UNIVERSE, COSMOS, GALAXIES, STARS, PLANETS, MOONS, COMETS, METEORS, SHOOTING STARS, NEBULAE, CLOUDS OF GAS AND DUST, BLACK HOLES, WHITE DWARFS, RED GIANTS, SUPERNOVAE, PULSARS, QUASARS, GAMMA RAYS, X-RAYS, ULTRAVIOLET, VISIBLE LIGHT, INFRARED, RADIO WAVES, MICROWAVES, THERMAL RADIATION, COSMIC RAY, SOLAR WIND, MAGNETOSPHERE, OZONE LAYER, CLIMATE, WEATHER, SEASONS, TIDES, WAVES, CURRENTS, WINDS, STORMS, HURRICANES, CYCLONES, COMETS, METEORS, SHOOTING STARS, NEBULAE, CLOUDS OF GAS AND DUST, BLACK HOLES, WHITE DWARFS, RED GIANTS, 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LONDON-EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4440/50	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.4060/65	Canadian dollars
	2.4382/92	West German marks
	2.7452/62	Dutch guilders
	2.0652/62	Swiss francs
	49.75/80	Belgian francs
	7.4650/4700	French francs
	1.663/1664	Italian lire
	201.23/33	Japanese yen
	7.5550/5600	Swedish crowns
	7.3200/50	Norwegian crowns
	8.9050/9100	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	328.80/329.30	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed lower reflecting fears of a possible increase in U.K. base rates and the absence of any insubstantial interest, dealers said. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was 16.3 down at 1,413.8.

Dealers said the recent weakness of sterling has prompted speculation over base rates. In trade weighted terms sterling closed at 77.5, its lowest since May last year.

The U.K. December money supply estimates were in line with market forecasts which left government bonds above the lows with net falls ranging to 1/2 point. Gold shares firmed with the bullion price and North American shares were higher.

Leading issues finished above the day's lows with ICI recovering a 2p fall to 762. Unilever was 20p off at 1,390 and Becton closed 3p off at 338. Jaguar met U.S. demand and recovered a 5p fall to 251.

Stores were hit by higher interest rate fears, dealers said. GUS shed 40p to 890. Marks and Spencer eased 5p to 167 while Glaxo-Medeva was 32p lower at 428. Its merger with British Home Stores was declared unconditional on Tuesday.

British Aerospace closed 1/2p higher after rumours of a large order from the U.S. and Lloyds added 9p to 215 on bid speculation, dealers said.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8, 1986
GENERAL TENDENCIES: An opportunity is now presented to you through startling and dramatic occurrences that give you the chance to manifest your special aptitudes.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A newcomer could be the one to most help you to become more productive and make your life more meaningful. A trip may be wise.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Talk over your secret ambitions with others you trust and get good ideas for attaining them. Control your temper.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be alert to some fine opportunity to advance while out in public, and seize it and become a more popular person.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) If you are not satisfied with your regular routine, discuss new ideas with those who can be most helpful to you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Being affectionate with the one you love can bring fine response today and happiness will increase.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A fine day for making some change or addition to your home today, or at least get started on it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A frank discussion with allies gains you their full cooperation and outside resources are improved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get busy and gain a greater amount of prosperity and make your life more interesting as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can reach the goals you set for yourself if you apply yourself more diligently. You must learn to be more progressive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) See good advisors who can give you right ideas for your progress, both in business and in social life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you go after personal wishes honorably, you can gain them easily now. Turn your ambitions into fact and loyal friends.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Good friends and newcomers can give fine advice for your advancement in the near future.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will ever be wanting to make changes and will want to travel a great deal, so be sure to give a good education that will equip him or her properly for a most interesting and exciting life. One who will want to study into all kinds of philosophies.

THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hinkle, Jr.

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Share prices fall by 45% in Kuwait, report says

KUWAIT (AP) — The prices of shares of Kuwaiti and Gulf companies, on the retreat since the collapse of the Souk Al Manakh stock market three and a half years ago, fell by 45 per cent between 1984 and 1985, according to a report published here Monday.

The Shal Bureau, a respected Kuwaiti economic consulting house, said in its annual report that the loss in the market value of Kuwaiti and Gulf shares in 1985 amounted to 2.1 billion Kuwaiti dinars (\$7.4 billion).

About one million dinars (\$3.5 billion) of the loss was incurred by the government, while the rest was borne by the private sector, the report said.

The prices of Kuwaiti and Gulf shares as recorded at the end of 1985 represented only 26 per cent of the prices ruling at the end of 1983, which involved a 74 per cent decline in prices of shares in two years, the bureau said.

The bureau reported that the loss in the market value of Kuwaiti and Gulf shares in two years amounted to 7.2 billion dinars (\$25.2 billion), with the government incurring 3.1 billion dinars (\$10.9 billion) of the losses and the remainder borne by individuals.

The then parallel stock market, Souk Al Manakh, collapsed in August 1982 under the impact of \$94 billion worth of unpaid postdated checks.

The government has been interfering on the stock exchange to prop up prices of Kuwaiti shares but its success has been negligible so far.

The Kuwaiti economy has also been adversely affected by the decline in oil income and the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war, now in its third year.

The Shal Bureau predicted that the decline in the performance in Kuwaiti and Gulf companies will continue in 1986, but an improvement was expected at the end of the year after the government carries out its plans to eliminate or merge firms of shaky standing.

The report said that the country's oil income would be adversely affected in 1986 by two factors, namely the possible outbreak of a price war and the continued decline of the exchange value of the dollar.

The bureau predicted that the price of oil could fall to \$18 per barrel as a result of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decision to increase production in 1986 by 1.5 million barrels a day.

But it said the "total revenues of OPEC producers could fall below their present level because an increase in OPEC's share would be offset by a decline in oil prices at least in the short run."

The decision of the 13-nation cartel in Geneva, taken in face of over-production by non-OPEC oil countries, at the risk of relinquishing the pricing system based on the \$28 per barrel of benchmark crude oil.

'Father of development' cuts spending

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's President Suharto, who likes to be known as the "father of development," Tuesday slashed budget spending on development for the first time since he began his economic strategy in 1969.

President Suharto, unveiling before parliament a draft budget for the year starting on April 1, reaffirmed his pledge to achieve five per cent annual growth for the next three years.

He also ruled out a devaluation of the Indonesian rupiah.

However, the president cautioned in a televised speech that leaner days lay ahead because of world recession. He said Indonesia, which relies on oil and gas for some 70 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings, would be badly hit by weaker oil prices.

"This is the first time since we started to implement development (budget) has not risen but, conversely, has diminished," he said.

Just one year ahead of general elections, President Suharto said no new state construction or industrial projects would begin and hinted that existing ones might have to be renegotiated to create more jobs.

Development spending on energy, industry, farming, mining and communications was cut 22 per cent from the last fiscal year.

The rest of the budget, made up of routine outlays, rose six per cent. The overall budget, which must be balanced under Indonesian law, was cut seven per cent.

President Suharto, whose "new order" government came to power after crushing a communist-backed coup in 1965, made economic progress a cornerstone policy after the chaos left by Indonesia's first president, Sukarno.

"This is a strongly contractual austerity budget. It's bold but to be realistic it had to be done," said one senior banker.

President Suharto said Tuesday that the thrust of the next few years would be to diversify earnings away from oil by exporting other goods and collecting more taxes.

"For that (oil dependence) would give rise to long-term economic vulnerability," he said in an appeal to Indonesians to comply with a newly-introduced tax system to help fill state coffers depleted by lower oil income.

President Suharto said that as revenue from oil and gas had waned, income from other sectors had risen and imports had been cut.

Monday night Economy Minister Ali Wardhana told reporters that although the world economy was deteriorating Indonesia was in a better position than in 1983. That year it devalued the rupiah, rescheduled billions of dollars in projects and slapped on austerity measures in reaction to lower oil prices.

The 1986-1987 draft budget assumed an oil price of \$25 a barrel, down from \$29.50 this fiscal year, with output pegged at 1.19 million barrels a day, against 1.3 million.

President Suharto said the economy was resilient enough to face the gloomy world economic outlook and cite a low inflation, ample foreign exchange reserves and agricultural success.

He said high priority would be given to feeding the nation by boosting the farm sector despite difficult times ahead.

One new budget item was an emergency food reserve especially for the armed forces and civil service, he said.

President Suharto appealed for austerity, discipline and efficiency and urged civil servants to spend less and ministers to cut non-vital ceremonies, meetings and travel.

He said it had been impossible to cut routine spending and this was why the axe had fallen on development.

President Suharto lashed out at developed nations for protectionism and uncertain interest and exchange rates.

"We shall never tire of reminding (them)," he said.

He left no doubt about the problems and urged the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder. "Indeed, a difficult and hard field of struggle stretches out before us," he said.

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He said it had been impossible to cut routine spending and this was why the axe had fallen on development.

President Suharto lashed out at developed nations for protectionism and uncertain interest and exchange rates.

"We shall never tire of reminding (them)," he said.

economic vulnerability," he said in an appeal to Indonesians to comply with a newly-introduced tax system to help fill state coffers depleted by lower oil income.

President Suharto said that as revenue from oil and gas had waned, income from other sectors had risen and imports had been cut.

Monday night Economy Minister Ali Wardhana told reporters that although the world economy was deteriorating Indonesia was in a better position than in 1983. That year it devalued the rupiah, rescheduled billions of dollars in projects and slapped on austerity measures in reaction to lower oil prices.

The 1986-1987 draft budget assumed an oil price of \$25 a barrel, down from \$29.50 this fiscal year, with output pegged at 1.19 million barrels a day, against 1.3 million.

President Suharto said the economy was resilient enough to face the gloomy world economic outlook and cite a low inflation, ample foreign exchange reserves and agricultural success

Botha: South Africa ready to attack bases in Botswana

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African Armed Forces will not hesitate to act against guerrillas they believe are hiding in Botswana, Foreign Minister P.W. Botha said Tuesday.

"If our security forces can identify targets, I have no doubt they will not hesitate, in terms of international legal practice and law, to take the necessary action, particularly as long as the Botswana government does not take any effective measures to eliminate this menace," Mr. Botha said in an interview with South African state radio.

He added that he had sent a message to the Botswana government Monday night demanding an end to guerrilla attacks. Two white people were killed on Saturday by a landmine planted near South Africa's border with Botswana.

The South African army blames the banned African National Congress (ANC) for the blast and says the men that planted the mine came from Botswana and returned to it across the Limpopo River.

Last June a South African commando unit attacked alleged ANC bases in Botswana's capital, Gaborone, killing at least 12 people. Botswana says they were civilians.

Pretoria blames the ANC for several guerrilla attacks in the past three weeks in which 13 whites have died. The ANC has claimed responsibility for earlier landmine blasts on the border with Zimbabwe in which six whites and one black farm worker were killed.

Five more whites were killed by a bomb in a shopping centre at a holiday resort near Durban just before Christmas. The ANC has not claimed to be responsible for this attack or Saturday's landmine.

Internal strife continued in South Africa Tuesday and a black woman died after being hit by police rubber bullets during disturbances at Walmer, near Port Elizabeth in the eastern Cape Province.

A police statement said shotguns were used in several other incidents elsewhere in the country but reported no other casualties.

About 1,050 people, most of them black, have died in protests since February 1984.

South African-led forces Monday reported another cross-border raid into Angola and said

they shot dead four Namibian nationalist guerrillas.

The South West Africa territory Force said in a statement that its troops crossed the border into Angola at the weekend, seizing guns, a mortar bomb, and uniforms of South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas.

SWAPO is waging a 20-year-old bush war against South African rule in Namibia, which Pretoria controls in defiance of the United Nations.

The force gave no details of how far it had gone into Angola on its latest foray.

Two years ago South Africa launched a huge invasion of southern Angola, engaging government and Cuban troops. Since then, its troops have crossed the border regularly, saying they were pursuing SWAPO guerrillas.

Meanwhile six members of the United States Congress arrived in South Africa Monday night for talks with senior white leaders and black dissidents and said they hoped to visit guerrilla leader Nelson Mandela in jail.

Representative William Gray, head of the House Budget Committee, told reporters at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport that they had requested a meeting

with Mandela in Pollsmoor Jail near Cape Town, but did not know if permission would be granted. Mandela remains an acknowledged leader of South Africa's blacks after over 20 years in jail for sabotage and plotting revolution.

Mr. Gray said the delegation's basic purpose was to find out what was happening in South Africa following a clamp-down on media reporting and a state of emergency introduced last year in protest-torn areas of the country.

Delegation sources said the six planned to visit the nation's biggest black township of Soweto near Johannesburg and were due to see President P.W. Botha on Wednesday.

Congress last year held major debates on punitive measures against South Africa over its apartheid policy of racial discrimination.

President Reagan, under intense pressure from Pretoria's opponents, last October imposed a series of sanctions, including a ban on imports of the South African Kruggerand gold coins.

The delegation, which will leave on Friday, also includes Walter Fauntroy, Charles Hayes, Lynn Martin, Peter Kostmayer and Edolphus Towns.

Aquino urges against election boycott

TABUK, Philippines (R) — Opposition candidate Corason Aquino Tuesday urged Communists not to boycott next month's presidential election in the Philippines.

Campaigning in a northern area seen as a rebel power base, she said the Feb. 7 poll that pits her against President Ferdinand Marcos "might be the last chance for peaceful change of government."

She told reporters later in Tabuk town she did not know if the banned Communist Party and its military wing, the New People's Army (NPA), would urge people to ignore the election.

"I hope they do not boycott the polls," she said. "But even if they do, it will not have any significant effect on the result."

Mrs. Aquino, widow of murdered political leader Benigno Aquino, and vice-presidential candidate Salvador Laurel were making their second trip into the region that Mr. Marcos, in power for 20 years, calls his "solid north."

But it is also an area where the NPA is active. Town officials said they were certain that rebels were among the small crowd that gathered to listen to Mrs. Aquino as she spoke in the main plaza, overshadowed by the Corallera Mountains, scene of frequent clashes between guerrillas and government forces.

Much rebel support comes from minority tribal groups who accuse the Marcos government of seizing ancestral lands.

Mrs. Aquino described as "a lie" accusations by Mr. Marcos that some of her advisers were Communists. On Monday she challenged him to name "pinks and reds" among her aides and stressed she would not appoint any Communist to her cabinet.

She pledged Tuesday that if elected, her government would respect tribal rights and traditions and stamp out "land-grabbing carpet-baggers."

The turnout of 1,000 people was the lowest since she and Mr. Laurel began campaigning four weeks ago.

Mr. Laurel told reporters they had "set a killing pace" and would campaign in 55 of the country's 74 provinces.

They have been to 33 so far, including six on their latest three-day foray into north-east Luzon.

Mr. Marcos and his running mate, former Foreign Minister Arturo Tolentino, have campaigned only in an around Manila.

Gunmen strike again in Punjab, killing 2

NEW DELHI (R) — Seven people died and 15 were hurt in a flare-up of violence in Punjab, according to latest reports, and authorities tightened security against a possible spread of extremist attacks to the Indian capital.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said two died when unidentified gunmen in Ferozepur district opened fire at cinema-goers leaving a late night show.

Three others died when gunmen shot up a petrol station in Jalandhar district, a 60-year-old woman was stabbed to death in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar and a flour mill owner in Gurdaspur was killed in the disturbances.

PTI said two shopkeepers were hurt by gunfire in another incident in Amritsar's old quarter near the Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest shrine.

The agency did not say to which ethnic groups the victims belonged. Most of India's 14 million Sikhs live in Punjab where they are in the majority, while Hindus are the state's largest minority.

The Hindustan Times newspaper said police had taken strict security measures to prevent the Punjab violence from spilling into Delhi ahead of Republic Day celebrations on Jan. 26.

Indian newspapers have said police were probing reports that extremists were planning to carry out attacks in the capital to disrupt the Republic Day festivities, which are to include a military parade attended by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Fears of violence during the celebrations rose as the militant All India Sikh Students' Federation (AISSF) called for the Akal Takht, one of the Sikhs' holiest buildings, to be demolished and reconstructed starting from Jan. 26.

Nearly 60 people have died since October in violence involving suspected extremists fighting for an independent Sikh nation in Punjab.

AISSF blocked traffic in Amritsar and Jalandhar cities Monday protesting against the arrest of a Sikh leader in Haryana state last week, PTI said.

Meanwhile, sporadic violence hit India's western city of Ahmedabad again Tuesday after two days of clashes between Hindus and Muslims sparked by a brawl during a kite-flying festival.

Angry crowds set fire to three shops in a western suburb this morning as unrest spilled out of the city's crowded old quarter, police said.

At least five people were stabbed Monday and police opened fire twice to break up savage street fights. No casualties were reported from the police shootings.

An indefinite curfew was imposed on parts of the old quarter on Sunday after seven people died in street battles.

The curfew was briefly relaxed Tuesday but only women were allowed out to buy essentials, police told Reuters by telephone.

Violence erupted after one person shot another's kite string during Ahmedabad's popular kite-flying season.

But the city was the focus of four months of caste and sectarian clashes in Gujarat state last year in which at least 230 people died.

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134-year-old Egyptian dies

CAIRO (AP) — A state-run newspaper Tuesday reported the death of a 134-year-old woman in the Suez Canal area, the third aging Egyptian woman to die within a month and the second from the Suez region. Al Akhbar published a picture of Helena Mansour Salama, who it said left behind 99 grandchildren. The daily quoted a grandson, Azmy Ekiadious, as saying she never had been to a doctor and that she had refused to be evacuated from her 22-acre farm when her village was a battle zone during four wars.

Warfare raged around the Suez Canal area during the 1956, 1967 and 1973 Middle East wars, and during a 1969-1971 war of attrition between Egypt and Israel.

Mrs. Salama's death followed that of 126-year-old Tafeida Hassan Ajwy, of Suez city, on Dec. 26 and that of 130-year-old Mejjallah Soliman Ajury, of the western Mediterranean city of Jersa Matrouh, the next day.

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South Korea reshuffles cabinet

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan Tuesday carried out a major cabinet reshuffle affecting eight ministers of his 22-member state council, a government spokesman said.

Mr. Chun retained his prime minister, Lho Shin-Young, a former South Korean intelligence chief, but replaced Deputy Prime Minister Shin Byong Hyun with Finance Minister Kim Yahn-Je.

The cabinet shakeup had been widely expected since last year when the country was troubled by acute political and economic problems. Most of the posts affected included economic portfolios.

Mr. Kim, who will also be economic planning minister, was succeeded by Chung In-Yong, governor of the Office of Bank Sup-

ervision and Examination. Construction Minister Kim Sung-Bae was placed by Lee Kyu-Hyo, the vice-interior minister.

South Korea fell short of its main economic requirements last year, achieving an estimated 4.5 to five per cent economic growth rate instead of the targeted 7.5 per cent.

Bank of Korea Governor Choi Chang-Nak became energy and resources minister, succeeding Choi Dong-Kyu. Chon Hak-Ze, head of the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, was named science and technology minister to replace Kim Sung-Jin.

Former General Lee Ki-Bae became defence minister, one of

the most important posts in South Korea where the military has had much influence. Gen. Lee replaced another former general, Yoon Sung-Min.

Gen. Yoon was under heavy fire from the country's opposition after the intrusion of a Chinese bomber into South Korean airspace in August.

The pilot crash-landed the plane on his way to Taiwan to seek political asylum. There were reports, denied by the government, that the plane evaded radar.

Presidential Ombudsman Chung Kwan-Yong was appointed government administration minister, succeeding former Gen. Park Sae-Jik.

Gen. Park replaced Lee Young-Ho as sports minister.

Doe frees prisoners after being sworn in

MONROVIA (R) — Liberian leader Samuel Doe has released more political prisoners following his swearing-in as constitutional president after five years as military ruler.

Doe, a former army master sergeant who seized power in a coup in 1980, Monday began a six-year term of office with a call for national reconciliation following a bloody attempt to oust him last month.

"I offer to our political opponents the olive branch of peace," he said referring to opposition politicians who have said he won the Oct. 15 elections only because of massive vote-rigging.

Many boycotted the inauguration ceremony while others were still in jail in connection with the Nov. 12 coup attempt in which many people died.

Several prominent politicians have been released since the attempted coup and a further 18 were set free only hours after Doe turned from military ruler to constitutional president.

They included three top members of Liberia's main opposition grouping, the Liberia Action Party (LAP), whose presidential candidate, Jackson Doe — no relation to the president — was still being investigated.

The government has accused some LAP politicians of involvement in the coup attempt. Only six of the three opposition parties' 15 elected representatives in the bicameral congress attended the ceremony at Monrovia's Centennial Memorial Pavilion.

Doe, at 35 Africa's youngest elected head of state, also called for better relations with the United States with which Liberia has been closely linked throughout its history dating back to 1846.

The United States Senate has criticised the Oct. 15 elections and has called on the administration to suspend military aid until all political prisoners are released.

Liberia depends on U.S. aid for survival.

4 Afghan generals held for spying

ISLAMABAD (R) — At least four generals have been arrested in Kabul on charges of tipping off rebel commander Ahmad Shah Massoud about Soviet troop movements, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

They said four or five generals were arrested on Dec. 5 on suspicion of informing Massoud, the best-known guerrilla commander of the six-year war between Afghan rebels and the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Angered at the leaks, Soviet military authorities in Kabul ordered all Soviet movements to be kept secret from the Afghan army until four hours before their planned start, the diplomats said quoting reports from Kabul.

Massoud, whose stronghold in the Panjshir Valley north of Kabul has been a major headache for the Soviet army since Moscow sent in its troops in 1979, has long boasted of excellent contacts in the Defence Ministry.

He credited these contacts with vital tip-offs that helped him evade three assassination attempts in the spring of 1984 before Soviet forces partially retook his valley in one of the biggest campaigns of the war.

His Peshawar-based Jamiat-I-Islami Party was not immediately available for comment.

The diplomats did not know any other details and could not say whether all the generals were suspected of actively informing Massoud.

They reported Massoud's men killed 23 Soviet soldiers and lost four rebels in attacks on Soviet posts in the valley on Dec. 22, but gave conflicting locations for the assaults.

Fighting has continued in side valleys of the Panjshir despite heavy snow, Jamiat sources say, suggesting Soviet forces want to use the normal winter lull to establish posts along supply routes leading south from Panjshir to Pakistan.

In Peshawar, Pakistan, an Afghan rebel commander and two refugees were shot dead at a bus stop, police reported Tuesday.

Mohammad Daud of the Harakat-I-Inqilab-I-Islami rebel party was waiting for a bus on Sunday when armed men pulled up in a jeep and shot him, police said. They did not say who was responsible.

U.S., Vietnam to end MIA issue in 2 years

HANOI (R) — U.S. and Vietnamese delegations said Tuesday they had agreed to work together to solving within two years the issue of hundreds of American servicemen missing in action (MIA) in the Vietnam War.

Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Armitage told reporters his delegation had also asked Hanoi if Americans were still held in Vietnam.

"The Vietnamese side expressed their position that there are no live Americans under their control," he said.

Hanoi said it would accept any information the United States had on this subject and would investigate, he added.

"The U.S. delegation is pleased with the discussions and the agreements to resolve the issue within two years or even sooner," Mr. Armitage said.

Mr. Armitage, Assistant Secretary of State Paul